THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

REGISTERED No. 44.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

VOLUME XXV. NUMBER 28.

CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, JULY 15, 1878.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL.....13-4.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 8TH JULY.

MR. A. M. SULLIVAN, M. P., one of the leaders of the Irish Home Rule Party, contributes to *May Fair* a new chapter of his "New Ireland." It has been suggested by the murder of Lord Leitrim. Among the many charges brought against the deceased nobleman was this that he claimed of his tenantry the right to take 'the pick of the family' into his 'domestic service,' as it was called. Referring to this charge Mr. Sullivan says:

"Not many years ago I was seated at the Board-room table of the Bantry Workhouse, when a peasant girl, with a newly-born infant in her arms, was brought in to be 'passed' before the Board. 'She evidently came in merely for maternity purposes, sit,' said Mr. Wolfe, the master, to the presiding chairman. 'Who is the father of your child?' asked the latter, very rashly. 'There he is, there,' she answered, pointing to her father's landlord, who sat as an *ex officio* at the table, and who took it all with pleasant equanimity. Scores—I might, perhaps, say hundreds—of such cases might be cited. Mr. Ellis, of Templemore, whose murder created a memorable sensation twenty years ago, was concerned in many evictions, threatened or effected; yet the motive for his assassination, attributed and successfully relied upon by the Crown to effect the conviction of the brothers Cormack (both executed for the crime), was alleged resentment on their part of Mr. Ellis's conduct in having taken 'the pick' of their family—a favourite sister—into his 'domestic service.' Much more recently a young girl named Catherine Cafferky, of Belmullet, in County Mayo—the pick of her father's family—fled from the 'domestic service' of a landlord as absolute as Lord Leitrim, the moment the poor creature discovered what that 'service' customarily involved. The great man had the audacity to invoke the law to compel her to return, as she had not given statutable notice of her flight. She clung to the door-post of her father's cabin; she told aloud the story of her terror, and called on God and man to save her. Her tears, her shrieks, her piteous pleadings, were all in vain. The Petty Sessions Bench ordered her back to the landlord's service,' or else to pay £5, or two weeks in goal. This is not a story of Bulgaria under Murad IV., but of Ireland in the reign of our present Sovereign. That peasant-girl went to goal to save her chastity. If she did not spend a fortnight in the cells it was only because friends of outraged virtue, justice, and humanity paid the fine when the story reached the outer world."

One's blood boils within as he reads these accounts.

REFERRING to the accidental death of Sir Francis Goldsmid, *May Fair* reads a mysterious page of the family history. According to James Picciote, the author of the modern history of the Jews, there lived in London during the latter part of the eighteenth century a Jewish Rabbi, called the Rabbi de Falk, gifted with supernatural powers, who when he died left to Mr. Aaron Goldsmid, great grandfather of the late baronet, Sir Francis, a sealed packet, with strict injunctions that it should be carefully preserved, but never opened. By way of enforcing this request, he informed the old Dutch merchant who founded the Goldsmid family in England, that if his injunctions were obeyed he and his descendants would bask in the sun of prosperity till the coming of the Messiah. If his instructions were disregarded, ill-fortune would finally overtake each successive representative of the race. Old Aaron Goldsmid kept the packet, holding it sacred for some years; but, finally, in an evil moment, curiosity overcame his reverence for the dead kabbalist, and he opened the packet. A few hours after he was found dead. On the floor near him were the contents of the packet, which proved to be a small piece of parchment covered with hieroglyphics and kabbalistic figures. At the time of his death, Aaron Goldsmid had founded a great fortune and a prosperous family. Two of his sons—Benjamin and Abraham—entered upon business as money brokers, and speedily established a colossal connection. But as Bengamin advanced in life he began to feel the curse of the kabbalist. He grew despondent scented ruin from afar, and, on the 15th of April, 1808, being fifty-five years of age—rich, honoured, powerful and esteemed—he died by his own hand. Brother Abraham was now left to respresent and guide the fortunes of the Goldsmid family. For five years he managed with accustomed success the great business of Goldsmid Brothers, and in the year 1810 he joined the house of Baring in contracting for a Ministerial loan of fourteen millions. The curse of the kabbalist was upon him. He shrank from an encounter with adverse circumstances. He hesitated, blundered, and—always losing—presently sank into a fit of despondency from which it was impossible to arouse him. The fortune of the family was, however, restored by Isaac Goldsmid. At sixty years of age he retired from business, having heaped up enormous wealth and secured the honour of an English baronetcy and a Portuguese peerage. In his case the curse was staved off. But in the case of his son, Sir Francis, the family curse again appeared, he having died from a Railway accident.

GENTLEMEN OF the Liberal Party, says the above paper, who find a difficulty in understanding the policy of Lord Beaconsfield should, instead of listening to Ministerial speeches in the House of Commons or the House of Lords, spend their days and nights in studying the novels of the late Benjamin Disraeli In 'Tancred,' for example, they would find hints that the Eastern policy of our Premier is not nearly fully developed. Speaking forty years ago through the lips of the Emir Fakredeen, Mr. Disraeli had very clear views as to what England must do to save her prestige and to maintain her dominion. 'Quit,' said the Emir, 'a petty and exhausted position for a vast and prolific empire. Let the Queen of the English collect a great fleet, let her stow away all her treasure, bullion, gold plate, and [illegible] arms; be accompanied by her Court and choose people and transfer the seat of her Empire from London to Delhi. There she will find an immense Empire ready made, a first-rate army, and a large revenue.' The prophesy has been so far fulfilled that the Queen has become the Empress of India, and the "first-rate army" has proceeded to Malta!

IT IS SAID that the sum the Ministers will ask Parliament for as the marriage allowance of the Duke of Connaught, is £10,000 a year. This is the sum voted in 1874 for the Duke of Edinburgh, and will be in addition to the £15,000 a year which His Royal Highness already draws from the State. The allowance to the Prince of Wales, voted in 1863, on his marriage, was £40,000 a year, in additon to which the Princess of Wales has £10,000 a year. The Princes Royal draws £8,000 a year. The £10,000 voted to the Duke of Edinburgh in 1874 was in addition to the £15,000 a year he has received since he attained his majority in 1866. The Princes Alice draws £6,000 a year, and the Princess Helena and the Princess Louise the same sum. Prince Leopold like his brothers, has £15,000 a year. The total amount paid by the nation as allowances to the Queen's children amounts to £131,000 a year. But this is not a very large sum for royal pensions. The Newab Nazim of Bengal gets a larger pension. Of course his ancestors ceded a "Kingdom" for this pensionary allowance.

THE CZAR has issued an ukase distributing another batch of decorations to the representatives of the Press with the Russian army. The Order of St. Anne, 3rd class, has been presented to M. Ivanoff, of the *Novoe Vremya*, M. Pognon, of the *Agence Havas*, Mr. MacGahan, of the *Daily News*, and to Mr. Millet, of the same journal. The Czar has also given the Order of St. Stanislaus, 3rd class, to M. Dick de Lonlay, correspondent of the *Monde Illustre*, to Nemerovitch Dantchenko, of the *Novoe Vremya*, and to M. de Lazzaro, of the *Illustratione*. The Press is not quite free in Russia, and yet it is honored.

THE COLOGNE GAZETTE says that it is sorry to hear that the Germans in Paris try to hide their nationality by every means. They try to pass themselves off for Swedes, Americans, Swiss, Dutch, or Englishmen, forgetting that the shape of a German's head going up in a straight line with his back, the cut of his coat, the cut of his hair, and the big ring on his forefinger betray him amongst a thousand. But why this wish of the Germans to conceal their identity in Paris? Are they ashamed of Alsace and Lorraine?

AN EXAMINATION of the accounts of the Reform Club, London, shows that it draws an income of over £15,000 a year from subscriptions, having 681 subscribers at £10 10s. and 783 at £8 8s. *May Fair* thus analyzes the accounts: The Prætorian guard of the Liberal Party eat at the Reform Club 'provisions' amounting in the twelve months to £7,779 19s. 1d. The members drank to the extent of £4,376 10s. 5d, and smoked £883 2s. 2d. worth of cigars. £108 14s. was the revenue received from billiards, whilst, baths brought in the comparatively small sum of £49 1s. The cost of 'victualling the servants' at the Reform Club is 9s. 8½d. a head per week. The columns in the great hall are dusted twice a month at a cost of £20 per anum. The destruction of rats, mice, beetles, &c, may be accomplished for the moderate sum of £16 10s, whilst the expenditure upon toothpicks amounts to £11 12s., and £3 0s. 1d. is spent on snuff.

TUESDAY, 9TH JULY.

THE LONDON EXAMINER thus begins an article on Flirtation:

"Lord Chesterfield tells us that this most "significant" word "dropped from the most beautiful mouth in the world, and that he "assisted at its birth." Significant it doubtless is, and yet its significance varies somewhat according to the sex of the person who practises the art. In the case of a woman we would define flirtation as "allurements without affections;" in the case of a man, "attentions without intentions."

Happily in the present state of the civilization of the Natives of India these arts are not known among them.

THE SAME PAPER says:

"The continued thefts of books from the Library of the British Museum prove for one thing, that a most undesirable class of persons succeeds in gaining admission to the Reading Room. But it may be doubted whether the practice of abstracting books is altogether confined to persons of generally depraved characters. The elder Disraeli, in his curiosities of Literature, gives a chapter upon the subject which goes far to prove that Biblomaniacs of undoubted wealth, position, and respectability are liable to be attacked by the disease which we now know as kleptomania, and when so afflicted the temptation to purloin, or "convey the wise it call," the coveted volumes becomes uncontrollable."

A poor medical student of Calcutta was yesterday sentenced to three weeks' rigorous imprisonment for this fatal weakness.

A NEW SECRET SOCIETY is said to have arisen in the United States, which bids fair to rival the now almost moribund "Molly Maguires" in numbers, if not in importance. It is called the "Knights of labour," and is said to number some 200,000 men chiefly foreigners, in Pennsylvania. Its principles appear to be a sort of communism. So a republic is not safe from the curse of communism.

THE JOURNAL OF CHEMISTRY asserts that tea is not the simple, harmelss beverage that it is generally supposed to be; but that its effects, in their character, may rightly claim to be classed with those of tobacco and alcohol. It is of opinion that many disorders of the nervous system are the direct result of extensive tea-bibing. Tea is a 'narcotic poison; its essential principle, theine, is allied in composition and porperties with strichnine and morphine. It first excites the nervous system, and then exhausts it. Experiments show that, both in man and other animals, it impairs power in the lower extremities: so that it affects the 'understanding' in a double sense—literally as well as figuratively. Tea is thus not the harmless exhilarant it has been considered, but a powerful agent, whose effects are often serious.

HER MAJESTY the Queen, it is said, declines to receive at Court any lady who has been either appellant or respondent in the Divorce Court. This is as it should be.

A COMPANY has been organised in New York to supply steam to the public for heating purposes. Three miles of street mains have been laid, and at present upwards of forty large buildings are heated by a system of pipes, which derive their steam from one boiler 5 ft. by 16 ft. in size. The pipes run through fifteen streets, and over 100,000 cubic feet of space are warmed by the steam, which is supplied at a pressure of 30lbs. to the square inch. The steam, in addition to heating purposes, can be used for cooking food, washing clothes, and extinguishing fires. In addition, the hotwater from condensed steam is furnished to the houses through the same pipes. The cost is said to be much less than that of ordinary fuel. Cannot a Company be formed to convey fresh and cooling air to houses in Indian towns during the hot season?

SIR HENRY THOMPSON lately gave a demonstration in the anatomical theatre, University College, on the microphone as applicable in operations for stone. The apparatus consisted of the ordinary feeble battery with wires, connected with two tele-

phones running to different parts of the room, and applied to the ears of the listeners. The ordinary sound used in operations for crushing the stone was attached by a wire to the circuit of the battery. Near the handle a piece of carbon, such as is used by Professor Hughes, was carefully balanced and attached by a delicate spring to the battery circuit. When the end of the sound strikes against the smallest piece of calculus, the acoustic wave is transmitted along the steel of the instrument to the carbon, where it is transformed into electric vibrations which are multiplied through the telephone, so that the noise becomes loud and unmistakable. But with the microphone properly adjusted, and the battery not too strong, it was easy by trial to detect the presence of even a minute fragment of unremoved calculus in the bladder. The carbon needed only to be fitted to the probe, of course, to detect bullets or fragments of bone. But while it was quite possible for a skilful surgeon to make himself absolutely certain by means of the microphone of what he was previously only morally convinced of, Sir Henry Thompson did not appear to anticipate any very remarkable results, at least in ordinary practice, from the use of the instrument.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH JULY.

SOME INTERESTING correspondence has been received from the Secretary of State by last Mail, relative to the decline in the trade of Cashmere Shawls in the American merkets and to the possibility of establishing a new market for those Shawls in that country. Amongst the causes given in support of this opinion are, that the Trade is being injured by the great quantity of ordinary Shawls produced, that owing to changes in the fashions, and to the present straitened circumstances of a large portion of the population the demand has gradually declined, that trade is depressed and that people generally are unwilling to spend their money on such costly articles of apparel. On the other hand it is thought that if these Shawls become fashionable again in Paris (and there seems some chance of this as the demand there has lately increased) the demand for the United States would spring up again, and the sale would be considerable, even with a depressed trade. This revival, however, would depend greatly upon skill and attention in adapting the styles of these goods to the varying tastes of purchasers. It appears that *Native* designs for these Shawls are not acceptable in the American market, and that in order to create a demand for them it is necessary that the designs should be prepared by French designers as they are said to understand better than others, the arrangement of colors and what would suit the prevailing taste. It is hoped that the display of these manufactures at the Paris Exhibition will excite an interest in this matter, which may improve the condition of the manufacturers and the trade in India.

IN A LETTER from Tiflis, written last April, it is said that the Russian losses during the late winter campaign in Armenia from cold, exposure, and typhus fever combined have been enormous; many regiments have lost nearly two-thirds of their numbers, and all are now mainly composed of raw recruits, most of whom are mere youths under 10 years of age. The same writer states that a great number of Lesghians and Tchetchentz mountaineers variously stated at 3,000 to 5,000 families (15,000 to 25,000 souls) have been transported from the districts implicated in the late insurrections in the Caucasus towards Orenburg and the east of Russia.

IN REMARKING on the administration report of the Baroda state for 1876-77, the Secretary of State refer with satisfaction to the condition of affairs in Baroda covered by the report, and thinks that the progress which has been made in reforming the administration is such as to entitle the minister to credit for incessant devotion to the arduous task devolving upon him.

THE FOLLOWING Acts lately passed in India have received the assent of the Secretary of State:

An Act for Licensing Trades, Dealings and Industries in the Presidency of Madras.

Act VII of 1878.—To amend the Law relating to forests, the transit of forest produce, and the duty leviable on timber.

Bill to extend the provisions of Bengal Act VII of 1873 (The Labour District Emigration Act) to the districts of Chittagong and to the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Bengal Bill to define and limit the powers of Settlement officers with respect to the enhancement of rent.

WITH REFERENCE to the Madras License Act referred to above, it will be remembered that the Madras Chamber of Commerce memorialised the Secretary of State against it some four months ago when the Act was passed by the Local Legislature. The Secretary of State now replies to the despatch of the Government of India, which forwarded this memorial, and makes the following observations:

"It is obvious that under the extraordinary financial pressure which has arisen from the famine the Government must have recourse to unusual expedients to enable the exchequer to meet the various demands made on the resources of the State. I have expressed my approval of the principle of the measures adopted to restore the equilibrium between income and expenditure, but the objection of the Madras Chamber of Commerce is especially directed against certain details in the Madras License Bill. I do not consider it would be expedient for me to discuss these details. Experience can alone suggest what modifications should be made in the financial legislation of the three presidencies. When the time comes for reviewing the measures recently passed, the objections of the Madras Chamber of Commerce will, I am confident, receive our fullest consideration."

THE ANNUAL REPORT on the Revenue Administration of British Burma for 1876-77 has been before the Secretary of State in Council, and is on the whole considered very satisfactory. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the province has continued to make a real progress in prosperity.

THE FOLLOWING is the result of the allotment of the two-and-a-half crores loan advertised by the Government of India on the 27th May 1878:—

Aggregate amount of tender.....	Rs. 5,00,41,900
Minimum rate of accepted tenders...	97·2
Proportion accepted of tenders at minimum rate.....	34·83
Total amount to be received by Government...	2,46,07,052
Average rate at which loan is issued	98·428

THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT have resolved to include the Russian language as one of the subjects in which candidates for commission are to be examined. The Germans had adopted this since the war of 1870-71.

THURSDAY, 11TH JULY.

DR. KIRK, H. B. M's Agent and Consul General at Zanzibar, reports that in May he paid a visit to Kilwa, with the view of ascertaining if possible the nature of the caravans that were said to be arriving from the Nyassa District. He states that several parties which set out a year ago had returned only a few days before his arrival, bringing down about 200 elephant tusks from Nyassa: and as far as he was able to discover few if any slaves accompanied these trading parties. He also ascertained that the Chief Suponda whose departure from the Lake had been heard of some time previously, had nearly arrived at the Coast; and that others, sent by Mataka and Makangira, were not far off. On the whole Dr. Kirk is of opinion that the slave trade is in abeyance at Kilwa, and that the people are rapidly taking to other means of living, and to the development of the local resources of their country which had been utterly neglected as long as the slave trade continued.

THE FOLLOWING is the result of the deliberations of the Postal Congress in Europe as regards India. The table of equivalents for the currencies of different countries includes the following for India: 5 centimes ½ anna 10 centimes ¾ anna, 25 centimes 2 annas. Applying this to the maximum rates of charge allowed by the convention we set for the Southampton route.—

Letters-per rate of ½oz-4 annas:—but above 3 annas will probably be adopted by India and 4½ annas for the Brindisi route.

Post Cards, each, 1 anna 3 pie: the Brindisi rate will probably be 1 anna 9 pie or perhaps 2 annas.

Printed Papers. Legal and commercial documents, and Patterns—per rate of 2oz | 9 pie: the Brindisi rate will probably be 1 anna 6 pie. But for Legal and commercial documents the lowest charge will be 5 rates and for Patterns 2 rates.

The next Postal Congress has been fixed to take place 5 years hence at Lisbon. Mr. Hogg who represented India at the Paris Congress is expected out about the middle of this month.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Government of India have recently addressed the Secretary of State regarding the selection of candidates for the Forest service in India, their attention having apparently been drawn to the matter by the gradual falling away in the numbers of the candidates who annually present themselves for examination for admission to this service. To increase the number of candidates the Government of India think that no reasonable effort should be spared. They believe that the most efficient remedy would be the improvement of the emoluments of the professionally educated officers of the department in India, and also the provision of better prospects of promotion than at present exist. They also suggest that the upper limit of age for admission to the service should be 22 years. This *enter alia* might have the effect of attracting to the Forest Service many of the men who fail for the Civil Service—men who have made up their minds for an Indian career, and who would gladly avail themselves of the chance which the raising of the limit of age would afford them. They recommend that the examination papers should receive wide circulation in all English schools and Universities, and they are of opinion that in view of the hardships, exposure, and disease incidental to the Forest Service in India, the medical examination should be as strict as possible and exclude all not possessed of really sound constitutions.

WE ARE SORRY to learn that it has been determined to re-transfer Mr. Turton Smith at present acting as Assistant Director General of the Post Office in the Police Department, from which he originally came as Assistant Inspector General of Police for the Post Office of India. How is it that a man of Mr. Smith's abilities and character does not suit the Post Office? There must be some mystery at the bottom.

THE FOLLOWING are the results of the examination for the Gilchrist scholarship:

The first place was gained by Conrad Pereira of Bombay, the *second* by P. B. Mookerjee of Dacca College examined at Calcutta.—

Besides these, the three following proved themselves entitled to honorable mention."—

Davendra Nath Mitra Joseph Adie Amertalal Ray	Calcutta.

We are requested to mention that the Latin subject for the examination to be held in January 1879, will be the second Book of Livy.

FRIDAY, 12TH JULY.

A WONDERFULL cure for gout has been discovered. We give the extract as we find it:

The *Reveu Hebdomadaire d' Agriculture* states that a female inhabitant of Prague had been a martyr to gout for upwards of six months; so tenacious was the malady that the patient could obtain neither repose nor sleep, her *right* arm being affected to such a degree that she was unable to make the smallest use of it. It came accidentally to her husband's knowledge that a villager suffering from severe rheumatism had been radically cured by the sting of a bee, and the treatment employed by the doctors proving inefficacious, he proposed to his wife that she should make a trial of this remedy. She objected first on the score of the pain that would be occasioned, but was at length prevailed upon to allow three of the insects to be placed upon the arm affected, the bees being kept there a sufficient time to deposit all their venom. The result obtained, says the Prague *Revue*, was little short of miraculous. The night that succeeded the operation saw the patient enjoying a deep sleep, such as she had not known for months, and the following morning all acute pain had subsided. The arm was naturally much swollen: but the inflammation speedily yielded to the emollient applications used, and within a few days all symptoms of gout had disappeared. The facts of the case are vouched for by the Prague journal, which invites the faculty to put the virtues of the remedy, thus successfully employed, to the test upon those of their gouty patients who would consent to inoculation by the bee.

THE PIONEER makes some *recherche* remarks on the Police administration of Calcutta:

Sir Ashley Eden has one or two crows to pluck with Mr. Metcalfe. First he objects, this year at least, to the almost exclusive employment of up-countrymen in the Calcutta force. We entirely agree with him in thinking that locals would make more intelligent policemen. Nor is such an opinion based on theory alone. There is very high authority for the failure elsewhere of police administration which proceeded on lines similar to those followed by Mr. Metcalfe and his predecessors. Master Dogberry, Hugh Oatcake, and George Seacoal in Messina were practically up-countrymen. Do we not know that what the Italian is to the Englishman that is the Bengali to the other Hindoos? Any one who will take the trouble to read carefully the conversation between Dogberry and his watch, and then listen to the final parley between a Calcutta "native officer" and *his* watch, will be surprised at the similarity in substance between the two dialogues. The resemblance is still further borne out by the practice. "You shall comprehend all vagrom men," said Dogberry; and comprehend them the Calcutta police do with a vengeance. Last year they comprehended no less than 250 of whom 112 were discharged by the divisional Dogberry himself, and the remainder were released by the magistrate. Sir Ashley Eden very properly reprobates such proceedings. Then again we have:—*Dog*—"You shall also make no noise in the streets; for the watch to babble and talk is most intolerable and not to be endured." *2nd Watch.*—"We will rather sleep than talk: we know what belongs to a watch." The benighted pedestrian in the Calcutta streets has ample opportunity for satisfying himself that Pir Bux and Ram singh are fully conscious of their duty in this respect. Does any one for a moment doubt that if Dogberry had been a keen Italian, poor Hero would have been saved her trouble.

But really we can't believe that good Bengalis if they are properly paid cannot be had for the Calcutta Police. Why does not the Police Commissioner indent men from the District Superintendents of Police in the Mofussil?

WE ARE SORRY to notice the death of two well known Anglo-Indians in England, Mr. Miller, late Senior Magistrate of Calcutta, and Mr. F. Jennings for many years Master of the Trades Association and a Member of the Bengal Legislative Council. Mr. Jennings in the hey-day of his life was a strong prop to the trading community of Calcutta.

DACCA has given its tremendous support to Mr. Garret's proposal to interdict married boys from presenting themselves at the University Entrance Examination. The Dacca Branch of the National Indian Association had lately the subject under discussion. Five speakers were in favour of the proposal, and four against it. So there was a majority of one!

WE ARE glad to observe that the Madras High Court is at last to have a Native Judge. The

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Madras Mail says, "the Madras Government have had the advantage of learning the estimation in which the Government of India and the Calcutta High Court hold the late Mr. Justice Dwarkanath Mitter, and hold the present Mr. Justice Romesh Chunder Mitter. The experiment of placing a Native on the High Court Bench has thus been given a fair trial in the metropolis, and the result has not disappointed the expectations of those who were responsible for it."

IT IS stated that Beni Gopal Mookerjea, charged with Road Cess defalcations in Nuddea, has been committed to the Sessions. Mr. Boyce has been deputed to examine the accounts, and we are told that the examination of the accounts of one single year 1872—has disclosed defalcations amounting to the enormous sum of Rs. 65,000! Who will make good this loss?

A LONDON Correspondent of a contemporary, we quote the *Indian Mirror*, says, that the young Maharaja of Kuch Behar now in England "goes in for European habits and notions immensely." In India he was a thorough orthodox Hindu.

SATURDAY, 13TH JULY.

IN THE NOTH AMERICAN REVIEW Mr. Edison, the inventor of the Phonograph, prognosticates wonderful results from its further development and perfection. The practical application of the apparatus is simple enough: a sheet of tinfoil is placed in the phonograph, the clockwork set in motion, and the matter dictated into the mouthpiece without effort; it is then removed, put in a suitable form of envelope, and sent through the ordinary channel to the correspondent for whom it may be intended. He, placing it on his own phonograph, starts the clockwork, and listens to what his correspondent has to say; the tone of the sender's voice being rendered perfectly, the authenticity of the communication may be ascertained; and as the foil may be preserved and its contents reproduced at any time, it forms a perfect record.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Indian Daily News* says, the Government is showing quite a surprising desire not to allow the title of "Empress of India" to be used in this country. The other day some ladies in Edinburgh sent a memorial to the Home Secretary for presentation to the Queen, and in which they styled Her Majesty "Queen of England and Empress of India." The memorial was, however, returned by Mr. Cross, with an intimation that it could not be presented to Her Majesty, until the obnoxious words "Empress of India" were expunged. Thus was the British Constitution saved!

A BILL has been introduced in the Legislative Council of Mauritius to prevent immigrants from India, and liberated African slaves, from leaving Mauritius and its dependencies for other than British possessions. The object of the law is to provide a safeguard against the maltreatment of coolies in colonies, or settlements, such as in some parts of Madagascar, where they would be unprotected.

WE UNDERSTAND that Babu G. C. Bonnerjee has been appointed to officiate as Private Secretary and Clerk to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice during the absence on deputation of Mr. S. Tremearne.

WE LEARN from the journal of the National Indian Association that Mr. N. R. Motabhoy was called to the bar last month. The degree of R. Sc. has been conferred on Mr. Annundrao Atmaram, by the University of London. Mr. Shambhu Chunder Nandi has passed the second M. B. Examination of the University of Glasgow. Mr. H. Chuckerbutty has passed in the Final Examination of the Inns of Court in Common Law, Equity, and Real and Personal Property; and Mr. R. B. Mukerji has passed in the Examination in Roman Law. Mr. Manockji Edulji Damla and Mr. Cowasji Hormusji Mistry have arrived in London from Bombay to compete for the Indian Medical Service; and Mr. Lutfur Rahman from Bengal for the study of law.

WITH REFERENCE to a telegram from Assam published in our issue of the 1st instant in which allusion was made to the improper sale by auction of Pergunnah Taria a correspondent thus gives the other side of the story:

"The right, title and interest possessed by Government to 2½ annas shares, pergunnah Taria, 4½ annas shares in Bajyapt Lakheraj Uchets, Bonemaree, Bologan, and Solevill were advertised to be put to sale by public auction at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara camp Dhubri on the 10th July 1878, at an upset price of Rs. 18,000, subject to Government Revenue and Road Cess. On the day of sale the representatives of the zemindar of Bijnee, of Roy Protapchunder Burruah Bahadur, Maharani Surnomoye and many others were present, and the property being divided into two lots the bids rose so high as to exceed twelve years' purchase, and the representatives mentioned above did not think it worth while to offer such high prices. At last the Deputy Commissioner prevailed upon Babu Gunganarain Gupta to make an offer for one lot and both the lots were knocked down to him at Rs. 9,100 each. It was necessary for the purchaser to deposit one-fourth of the price in the Treasury before 5 P. M. of the day of sale and the Babu above named with some difficulty deposited the money. Some of the dissatisfied zemindars submitted an application to the Chief Commissioner to the effect that the price obtained at the sale was unreasonably low, and that if the sale be cancelled one of them was ready to pay Rs. 12,000 in excess of the amount at which the lots were knocked down. A few days afterwards when the Chief Commissioner Col. Keatinge halted at Dhubri on his way home he granted the zemindars an interview and there on a representation made to him by the zemindars he issued an order on the Deputy Commissioner to cancel the first sale and put up the property a second time. The notice of was second sale was fastened on the door of the Kutcherry house at Dhubri on the 20th June to the effect that the re-sale will take place on the 22nd idem. There was not much publicity given to the re-sale by the insertion of the notice in the *Gazette*. Very few people knew it and the day of re-sale was a very rainy day when many could not attend and the property was knocked down to Roy Protapnarain Barruah for Rs. 30,200. The aggrieved first purchaser has appealed to the Government of India for redress and at the same time has applied to the Civil Court to set aside the order of the Chief Commissioner for resale."

We give the above for the sake of fair play. For our part we are satisfied that Col. Keatinge would not have cancelled the sale without good and valid reasons. The fact that the second sale fetched Rs. 30,000 whereas the first had brought in Rs. 18,200 is a proof sufficient that the interference of the Chief Commissioner was necessary.

THERE WERE 201 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending the 6th July, of which 26 were from small pox, 61 from fever, 24 from diarrhœa and dysentery, 9 from cholera, 22 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Seven children were still-born and one person died from old age. The week was comparatively a healthy one.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a postal complaint from Santipore. Under the new arrangements the delivery of letters from up-country is delayed nearly two days. There were formerly a Deputy Post Master and Clerk on a salary of Rs. 30 and 10 respectively, who did all the work, but with a view to make a paltry saving the Santipore Post Office has been made a branch of the Ranaghat Post Office, keeping a Deputy Post Master on a salary of Rs. 20 a month. Now the income of the Santipore Post Office is about Rs. 300 a month. Santipore is an important centre of trade in the district of Nuddea, and the tradespeople complain bitterly of delay in the receipt of their up-country letters. We hope the Post Master General will enquire into the matter.

MR. HANBURY has withdrawn his vote of censure on Mr. Gladstone. He made a most lame excuse. Mr. Gladstone gave a dignified reply.

A CORRESPONDENT at Pooree informs us that the Car festival there passed off smoothly. Babu Nobin Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate, personally superintended the arrangements. The two cars, our correspondent writes, "were pulled half the way to the garden house on the very first day of the festival, a feat unprecedented in the history of the Car festival at Juggannath. The Raut behaved admirably." At Mahesh the festival passed off quietly. At Mahisadal alone there was a serious accident.

WE ARE glad to learn that Dr. Sourindro Mohun Tagore has been elected Honorary Member of the Royal Archæological Society of Athens and Corresponding Member of the University of Geneva, Fine Arts Section.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us as follows:

"You will doubtless be glad to learn that the Municipal Commissioners of Serampore, at their last meeting, have re-elected Mr. S. Tremearne their Vice-Chairman. It now remains for His Honor the Lieutenant Governor to signify his approval of his re-election, which, I may add, has given satisfaction to the major portion of the rate-payers, specially those, who are not well-to-do. The Chairman Mr. F. H. Harding, stated at the meeting, that it would be a great relief to him if Mr. Tremearne were appointed Vice-Chairman, for he (Mr. Tremearne) resided at Rishra and he would be in a position to look after Rishra and Mohesh and Konnagore wards, while the Chairman would be in entire charge of the Serampore ward. These remarks the meeting considered to be sensible and appropriate.

Yours faithfully,
SHIBODASH BANERJEE.
Municipal Commissoners.

Rishra, the 13th July 1878.

THE COLLECTORATE CLERK of the Calcutta Municipality charged with breach of trust in respect of Rs. 200 was this day convicted by Mr. Charles and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200, in default to be imprisoned for a further term of two months.

WE ARE sorry to learn that Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr has been unsuccessful in his candidature for Rochester.

SIR. STUART HOGG'S resignation has been accepted by the Secretary of State with effect from the 31st July 1878.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Report on the Working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces for the year 1876-77. 2. Calcutta Review, No. 133, July 1878. 3. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. 47, Part I. No. 1, 1878. 4. The Bengal Magazine No. 71, June, 1878. 5. A Dialogue on the Vedantic conception of Brahma. By Pramada Dava Mitra, late Officiating Professor of Anglo-Sanskrit, Government College, Benares. 6. Messrs. Dickenson and Co's Price List of Types, Presses &c., No. 74, for July, 1878. 7. Monthly Illustrated Price List of Types, Presses, Machinery and all kinds of printing materials, imported by A. J. Parker and Co. Calcutta. 8. On Representations of Foreigners in the Ajanta Frescoes, by Rajendralala Mittra L. L. D. C. I. E. (Reprinted from the Journal of the Asiatic Society, Vol. 47, Part I, 1878.) 9. Kalki-Purana with a Bengali translation by Juggunmohun Turkalunkar. Published by Kedarnath Banerjea. 10. Mrinmayi, a sequel to Kapal Kundala, by Damodara Mookerjee, 12th Edition. 11. Bimola—a story in Bengali, by Damodar Mookerjea. 12. The Hindipradipa Vol. I. No. 11, July 1878. 13. Report of the Madras Famine Committee.

THE LAST number of the *Bengal Magazine* has an interesting and readable article on the present tendency of Brahmoism.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 6th July.—The following members of the Indian Council dissent from Lord Cranbrook's despatch of the 31st May, on the Vernacular Press Act, which has been presented to Parliament, namely, Sir Erskine Perry, Sir W. Muir, and Colonel Yule, whilst Sir. B. Ellis, Sir. H. Norman, Sir F. Halliday, Sir G. Wolseley, Sir H. Rawlinson, Sir W. Merewether, Sir H. Montgomery, the Honorable E. Drummond, and Mr. Andrew Cassels approved of it. Mr. Dilyell abstained from voting. The Shah has conferred on Sir Albert Sassons the first-class Order of the Lion and Sun.

7th.—The decisions arrived at by Congress have caused dissatisfaction with everybody in London. The conservative journals and Paris papers vigorously attack them.

8th.—The Channel Squadron has arrived at Cyprus. The *Daily Telegraph* states that a defensive treaty of alliance has been concluded between England and Turkey for the maintenance of integrity in the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey, and that the Porte agrees to grant England the right to occupy Cyprus.

8th.—In the Commons this evening, Mr. Cross replying to a question, respecting a statement made in the *Telegraph*, said that in consequence of Russia retaining Batoum, a conditional convention has been concluded between England and the Porte on the 4th June, whereby England agrees to defend Turkey against aggression, the Porte, in return, ceding to England the Island of Cyprus, which would forthwith be occupied by British troops. Sir Garnet Wolseley is appointed to administer the Government there.

9th.—The diplomatic correspondence of the Foreign Office on the cession of Cyprus has been published. A despatch of Mr. Layard's, dated 30th May, points out that the retention, by Russia, of Batoum, Kars, and Ardahan will greatly tend to the dismemberment of the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey; and suggests the assignment of Cyprus to England to be occupied and governed by her, England engaging to prevent any further act of aggression on the part of Russia. The Island is to remain part of Turkey; the surplus revenue, to be paid to the Sultan, and when Batoum, Kars, and Ardahan are restored to Turkey, England will withdraw from Cyprus. These terms the Porte accepts. It is stated that the Indian troops from Malta will garrison Cyprus. The Press generally approve in warm terms the bold and manly step taken by the Government, whereby Russian aggression is confronted, and British interests in the Suez Canal protected. The *Daily News* condemns the step.

10th.—The Under Foreign Secretary stated to the Commons last night that the Government had received no information that the Turko-English convention has been formally communicated to the Powers. The greater part of the Continental Press comment in unfavorable terms on the convention, which they term an astute bargain. Sir Garnet Wolsley leaves for Cyprus next Saturday. It is probable that the Indian contingent will be sent there. The 42nd, 71st, and 101st Foot are ordered to prepare, to embark for Cyprus immediately.

11th.—The English Press, in discussing the Convention, lay great stress on the magnitude of England's responsibility.

13th.—Semi Pasha proclaimed the Anglo-Turkish Convention at Cyprus yesterday, and Mr. Baring, Secretary of the British Embassy at Constantinople, at once took possession in the name of the British Goverment. The Troops from Malta will leave for Cyprus on the 18th instant.

The French Press are moderating their tone in discussing the convention.

A Parliamentary Committee of enquiry have examined Lord Napier, on the famine question, who favored further extensive irrigation in the Madras Presidency.

Sir Stafford Northcote, in the House of Commons last night, said that a vote of money in connection with the Convention will be soon asked for by the Government.

Berlin, 6th July—Congress has agreed in principle to maintain treaty stipulations, prohibiting the passage of the Dardanelles by foreign war vessels, and also agreed to cede Batoum to Russia, and make Batoum a free port. The question remains to dismantle fortifications, and forbid Russia to fortify the coast. A resolution of Congress concerning Greece suggests that the new boundary line shall be the line from mouth of the River Solembria to the mouth of the Kalamas and that in the event of any difficulty arising, the Great Powers should offer their mediation.

7th.—The Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is postponed until August. Russia has agreed to restore to Turkey Bayazid and the valley of Alashgard.

9th.—The Congress has settled that Batoum shall be a free port, and essentially a commercial port. Prince Gortschakoff has declared to Lord Beaconsfield that Russia has no objection to the transfer of Cyprus to England.

10th.—The Congress commenced to-day the reading of the projected new Treaty, and agreed to most of the clauses. The reading will be continued to-morrow, and the Treaty signed on the 13th instant. The semi-official *Provincial Correspondents* of Berlin states that Anglo-Turkish Convention will not affect the decisions of the Congress. The German and Austrian semi-official journals approve of the Convention.

Batavia, 6th July.—Large reinforcements are proceeding to Acheen, where it is rumoured that a serious outbreak has taken place.

Malta, 10th July.—The Commissariat Department and the Indian Sappers have started for Cyprus to prepare for the reception of troops.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., on *Friday* the 19*th Inst.* at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Rectilinear or Plane Polarisation.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on *Saturday* the 20*th Inst.* at 4 P. M.

Subject: Natural Sources of Water and Compounds of Nitrogen and Oxygen.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JULY 15, 1878.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS ACT.

THE VICEROY'S DESPATCH.

THE LAST GAZETTE OF INDIA contains the despatches of the Government of India and the Secretary of State on the Vernacular Press Act. The Viceroy's despatch in defence of the Act goes over grounds with which the reader is already well acquainted. We are, however, allowed some insight into the secret history of the measure. It is stated that in 1875 the attention of the Government of India was first drawn by Sir George Campbell to the necessity of a repressive act for the control of the Vernacular Press. We are not told what notice the Government of India took of this recommendation. Lord Northbrook was then the Viceroy and Governor General of India, and as the subject was allowed to drop we conclude that his Lordship did not agree with Sir George Campbell. We are next told that in 1875 the Secretary of State drew the attention of the Government of India to certain articles in a Vernacular newspaper, the tendency of which was to justify the attempt to poison Colonel Phayre at Baroda, and, while leaving it to the Government of India to decide whether the provisions of the Indian Penal Code should be brought to bear upon such writings, remarked that their unchecked dissemination among the natives "could not be allowed" without danger to individuals and to the interests of Government itself." The Baroda articles of the Vernacular newspaper in question were thus the origin of the discussion for a Gagging Act for the Vernacular Press. Lord Salisbury suggested the propriety of prosecuting this paper, but Lord Northbrook's Government decided that it was "not advisable to institute prosecutions in these and other cases in which the language used is such as might be considered to come within the provisions of the law." It appeared to them by no means certain "how the Act would be construed in court, and whereas a failure to obtain a conviction would be most damaging to the Government, a prosecution, even if successful, would probably occasion greater public excitement than the occasional publication of such attacks," and their conclusion was that "in the present state of the law it was not desirable for the Government to prosecute, except in the systematic attempts to excite hostility against the Government." Lord Northbrook's despatch concluded with the following words: "The questions of the tone of the Native Press, of the condition of the law, and of the propriety of altering it, present very grave difficulties, and we propose to take another occasion of expressing our views upon them." Lord Northbrook however retired a few months after without taking any action on the subject. But Lord Lytton did not remain inactive. His Lordship circulated a confidential minute dated the 22nd October last containing the following suggestions:

(1) that the explanation attached to Section 124A of the Penal Code should be modified.

(2) that provision should be made for taking security from proprietors of Native Presses;

(3) that a law similar to the Press law now in force in Ireland (33 & 34 Vic., Cap. 9, sections 30 to 33) should be enacted.

All the local Governments, except the Madras Government supported the proposal. So once more the Government of the Duke of Buckingham laid the people of Madras under obligation by standing up for constitutional rights. It had in the same enlightened and bold spirit opposed the Arms Act. We read, "the Government of Madras, for reasons which are fully stated in the Minutes of the Governor and the two civil Members of Council, were opposed to any curtailment of the liberty of the Press." We wish these minutes had been published. The opposition of the Madras Government has had effect, because Madras has been exempted from the operation of the Vernacular Press Act. The grounds, on which the Government of India defends this measure, have been discussed thread-bare, and we will not therefore go over them again. There is, however, one remark in the despatch of the Government of India, which we cannot leave unnoticed. The Government of India says: "It was not without very deliberate consideration, and it was under a grave sense of the responsibility which attaches to us for the maintenance of order, that we deemed it our duty to adopt a policy which many persons, uninformed of the actual facts and without knowledge of the people with whom we have to deal, will not unnaturally regard as a retrograde policy; but we consider that in a matter of this nature it is only those on the spot, and those acquainted with the native character, who can adequately judge of the extent of the evil which had to be repressed, and of the mischief which would have resulted from permitting it to continue unchecked. In making this remark, we do not intend to imply that we consider the great body of Her Majesty's Indian subjects to be disaffected towards the British Government. We do not hold this opinion. On the contrary, we see every reason to believe that the justice and moderation of British rule are appreciated and valued by the people of India; but we must not forget that among the teeming millions of this land there is a vast amount of ignorance,—an amount of ignorance which however successful may be our efforts in the promotion of popular education, it will take many generations to disperse, and that such a people is peculiarly susceptible to the preachings of sedition." We are glad to receive the testimony of the Government of India to the loyalty of the people generally, but the Government says that those, who are on the spot and responsible for the safety of the country, are the best judges as to whether any steps should be taken to repress the evil. If the Government puts the question on that ground, then it practically bars all discussion. The Government thus assumes a position, which necessarily excludes public opinion. But will Parliament allow the Government of India to assume that position? If the empire were in a state of seige, if its power were hanging in the balance, if public safety were imperilled, then the Government might have fairly claimed the dictatorship it asserts. Lord Canning was in that position when he passed the Gagging Act of 1857. But we are now living in the piping time of peace. The people are loyal, obedient, and attached to British rule. Was this the time for Government to pass a measure, which could be justified only under an extreme emergency? The Government of India says, "we desire to draw Your Lordship's attention to the statement made by one of the speakers who took part in the discussion of this measure, and who has had considerable experience of one of the most important Provinces of Northern India, that the seditious language of the Vernacular Press is creating amongst the most ignorant masses of the native population those erroneous impressions and disloyal sentiments which it systematically and unscrupulously suggests to their uncorrected credulity." But according to official reports the vernacular papers of Northern India have not a circulation of even one hundred copies each on an average, and are their writings calculated to affect the minds of the masses, which again are unable to read? The Government of India adds, "nor must it be overlooked that a subject race, accustomed to centuries of autocratic rule, is unable to understand that degree of toleration on the part of the ruling power which allows its Government to be continually held up to the hatred and contempt of its subjects. Such toleration is mistaken for timidity, and the political effect of it can hardly fail at any time to be more or less mischievous. But it may here be stated that we have had strong reason to regard it as especially mischievous at the present moment, when the entire native population of this country is excited to a degree, altogether unprecedented, by the course of events in Eastern Europe; and when the bazars of India are daily teeming with political rumours, popular criticisms, and religious prophesies or denunciations, profoundly agitating to the temper of the native community, and more especially of that vast portion of the native community which is powerfully influenced by oriental traditions and totally impervious to the principles of European polity. We do not deem it necessary or advisable to dwell upon this novel and serious aspect of the situation which we have had to recognize in estimating the political effect of the increasingly seditious language of the Vernacular Press; but we trust that Your Lordship will see in it a sufficient justification for the strong sense of urgency under which we have passed the present measure for restraining the utterance of such seditious language." But what has been the practical issue in India of the Russo-Turkish war? Why, the moment it was known that England wanted Indian aid to fight Russia, Indian soldiers, Indian princes, nay Indians of all descriptions, regardless of caste and religion, profferred their loyal services to Government with an enthusiasm, the like of which has not been seen in this country, and which must be particularly grateful to the Indian Government. If the writings of the Vernacular Press had been sowing seeds of disaffection and sedition in the minds of the people, would there have been this splendid moral demonstration? We are afraid that the Government was wholly blinded by its own prejudices when it sought to pass this law on the pretext of political complications. So much for the despatch of the Government of India. We now turn to the Secretary of State's despatch.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DESPACH.

THE Secretary of State's Despatch is a compromise. Lord Cranbrook's instincts were evidently against the Act, but he has been carried away by the tide of officialism. All compromises are more or less unsatisfactory, and Lord Cranbrook's compromise is not an exception to the general rule. After reviewing the reasons advanced by the Government of India for the new law His Lordship says, "I do not conceal from myself that the political system and institutions of British India must for an indefinite period of time exhibit material differences from those established in this country." Of course we all admit that India cannot at once be England, nor is it for many reasons desirable that it should in all respects become Englishified. But it is the duty of England to raise India to the high platform of her civilization and progress, and if she neglects or ignores that duty she has no business to be in this country." She will then be acting in opposition to the decree of Providence. Lord Cranbrook acknowledges the power of the Native Press; this recognition is a compliment to British rule under which it has grown and flourished. He says, "I know that the native Press of India has long since ceased to be insignificant. So large a part, however, of the great benefits which the British Government has conferred on Her Majesty's subjects in India has consisted in the establishment of institutions more or less resembling those of this country, that I cannot but hear with pain of a necessity having arisen for the even partial withdrawal of one of these institutions, and one so highly prized by Englishmen as the liberty of the Press." We believe that this feeling of Lord Cranbrook is sincere, for throughout his despatch he shows a genuine love of the freedom of the press, but he has been evidently misled. His Lordship lays great stress upon the consensus of opinion among the local Governments on the subject, and in deference to that opinion he has allowed the law to remain on the statute book with certain modifications. His Lordship we are afraid has misread the extracts from the Vernacular papers on which the law is based. He says, "I have carefully examined the extracts from vernacular journals on which Your Excellency, in your address to the Legislative Council, relies for the justification of the proposed enactment. The writers of these passages condemn the British Government of India, not for specific faults which might be corrected,

but for characteristics which are among the conditions of its existence, such as the British origin of many or most of the persons who direct it. They hint at its feebleness, at the numerical inferiority of the forces on which it depends on the masses of the Indian population, and at a supposed decay of spirit in the nation from which it proceeds. It is scarcely necessary to look to the peculiar circumstances of India, for the grounds on which such language may be pronounced to be intolerable." But it is not quite correct to say that the Vernacular Press only indulges in vague and general denunciations. It gives facts, but foolishly we think sometimes deduces sweeping generalizations from those facts. For our part we think that the Native Press does a real service to the State when it gives facts illustrative of defects or abuses of administration. One fact is worth a thousand speculations, and this is what some of our vernacular contemporaries do not always understand. But this circumstance does not detract from the value of their criticisms generally. Lord Cranbrook reproduces the remarks of Lord Chief Justice Cockburn on the Liberty of the Press, which Sir John Strachey had quoted in the Council, and says by that standard the Vernacular Press has exceeded the legitimate bounds of criticism. We give his Lordship's remarks below:

"The public journalist is entitled to canvass the acts, the conduct and the intentions of those who may be entrusted from time to time with the administration of the Government by the Crown. He is entitled to canvass, and if necessary to censure those acts. He is entitled to comment on, canvass, and, if necessary, censure the proceedings of Parliament. He is entitled to criticise and condemn the acts of public men. He is entitled to point out any grievances, which he may think the people labour under, and argue for their removal, and suggest what remedies may occur to him for the purpose. He is entitled not only to publish, but to comment on, to criticise, and if necessary, to condemn the conduct of Judges and their decisions; nay, more, even the verdicts of juries are not exempt from fair and reasonable criticism. I have told you within what limits a journalist may exercise his opinion and his talents, but I should tell you also the things which is not permitted by law to do. He must respect the existence of the form of Government under which he enjoys and exercises those very extensive rights and privileges to which I have referred. A public journalist must not, either covertly or openly, devote the pages of his journal to overthrow the Government. He must not sow disaffection and discontent generally throughout the land. He may, as I said, comment on the acts of the Government, and criticise them severely; he may, as I have said, canvass and criticise proceedings in Courts of justice, and the conduct and demeanour of the Judges who preside; but he must not devote his journal to the purpose of bringing the administration of the law generally into contempt, and exciting the hatred of the people against the law, neither can he legally devote the pages of his journal to excite animosities between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects."

We deny that the extracts given by Government "do not even satisfy the tests which are permissible to a journalist under the settled constitution of England." There is not one passage in the extracts, which shews that the writer sought to "overthrow" the Government or to foment rebellion. There have been certainly severe, violent, and at times irrational remarks, but they were not directed against the Government of the Crown as an entity, but against the policy, measures, and conduct of the Government and also against the personal deportment of individual officers of Government. But this does not constitute sedition. We are sorry that Lord Cranbrook did not go deeply into the subject. Eccentricities and oddities do not imply a real disease of the heart.

Lord Cranbrook has shewn his statesmanly instincts, when he says that the Government ought to adhere to the Penal Code in defining the responsibilities of the writers of the Vernacular Press, but that, on the contrary, it should foster public criticism. He remarks that "mere censure of the officers or measures of Government, even if captious, ought not to be repelled."

We fully appreciate the spirit which has prompted this remark, but it is wholly neutralized by the procedure Lord Cranbrook has approved. The Penal Code is to be adhered to in interpreting the offences, but the punishment shall be awarded by the executive authority, and not by a judicial tribunal after a regular trial. As Lord Lytton points out, "the Act provides for a warning similar to that provided for in the Irish Act, and for the confiscation of the paper and printing plant in the event of the warning being disregarded; but it differs from the Irish Act, in that it excludes the jurisdiction of the Civil or Criminal Courts in regard to any proceedings purporting to be taken under it. This proviso we consider to be essential, for reasons very similar to those which have led us to regard prosecutions for seditious writing before the oridinary Criminal Courts as inexpedient." And Lord Cranbrook approves of this Star Chamber procedure. His Lordship says: "I wish to record further my opinion, which I believe to be in accordance with that of Your Excellency, that the principles laid down in the section of the Penal Code quoted above should be substantially adhered to in carrying out the provisions of the new Act. No criticism of Government or its measures should be discouraged if there is reason to think that it has been dictated by an honest desire for improvement. All the most experienced Indian administrators have felt that the great difficulty of Indian administration is the difficulty of ascertaining facts of social condition and political sentiment; and the Vernacular Press has always been considered one valuable means of getting at these facts, as is shown by the careful attention given by Your Excellency's Government, by that of your predecessors, and by this office, to the translated extracts from native newspapers which are regularly supplied to you. Open or covert exhortations to disaffection cannot be allowed to be addressed to an excitable population; but mere censure of the officers or of the measures of Government, even if captious, ought not to be repelled. I agree with Your Excellency that there is some danger of the Native Press being employed as an engine of extortion, and that this abuse should be prevented; but neither European or Native officials should be encouraged to exhibit too great sensitiveness, even under unreasonable blame. I hope that the result of the measure thus limited and guarded will lead the writers in the Vernacular journals to examine and expose genuine grievances, instead of indulging in the easier task of general denunciation, and that the improvement which has been noticed in the European and Anglo-Native Press may gradually extend to the vernacular newspapers, so that special legislation for any class of publications may be found in no long time to be unnecessary. Subject to the observations contained in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of this despatch, the Act will be left to its operation." It is here where the shoe pinches. The executive are placed in the anomalous position of prosecutor and judge in a single person, and justice administered through that agency we submit with all deference cannot command public confidence. If Lord Cranbrook had given judicial trial, we would have been satisfied. The Courts have been established by the Crown, and we cannot understand why the representatives of the Crown should refuse to repose confidence in those Courts in a matter like this. We hope Mr. Gladstone will draw attention to this point.

POPULAR CONTENT IS BETTER THAN PUBLIC WORKS.

SUCH were the remarkable words used by the late Lord Hobart, Governor of Madras, in a private letter to Lord Northbrook, in writing about the reduction of taxation proposed and carried by the latter in 1873. Lord Hobart wrote:

"At this moment, it is my belief that the Minister of Finance holds the key of Indian loyalty, for I am so far an alarmist as to believe that recent fiscal measures in taxation have caused most serious mischief, and that taxes are now paid with curses the deeper because they are scarcely heard. Your principle I understand to be to pacify all classes by reducing taxation or arresting its progress so as to disabuse them of the fear that there is more to come; and for this purpose to sweep away on the one hand the income tax (machinery and all,) and on the other to simplify and reduce some of the taxes which press upon the poorer class.

"To give full effect to this, the local Governments must consult and aid you; and I can answer for Madras. I think I understood you to anticipate a surplus sufficient for these measures; but (as I said) if I had not a surplus I would make one by reducing expenditure.

"Popular content is better than public works."

The italics are ours. These words ought to be made the text of a manual for the Government, aye for every official in India. If in 1873 Lord Hobart said that the taxes were paid with curses, how much deeper have those curses now become. Lady Hobart has done well by publishing the letters and minutes of her deceased husband on the subject of the Salt tax in Southern India. These papers have been published most opportunely. In a short preface Lady Hobart says:

1. I am anxious that the experience, and also the opinions, of my husband should not be entirely lost to his country. I wish his words to live and carry on whatever good they may be capable of promoting.
2. I desire to give some record of the unswerving effort with which he tried to secure the welfare of the people of India, and especially of the people in the Presidency of Madras during the three years he was their Governor.
3. I wish to record his desire that his administration should rest rather on permanent principles than on measures passed to suit temporary difficulties.

We hear very much about the anxiety of the British people to protect our "Indian possession," but in ignorance or forgetfulness they are rarely reminded that the surest safeguard of our Indian Empire is to be found in the happiness of the people of India. The jealous guardianship of their well-being is an impregnable defence against all foreign foes. The armament of a people's happiness is consistent with reduced taxation, and with the rule of a Sovereign whose glory may be that in her Eastern Empire the contentment of millions of her subjects gives reality to the message of "Peace and good will to men, and establishes Christianity as a practical principle of Government, and as the basis for the widest toleration and closest association in one common bond of interest for people of different races and various creeds.

And a perusal of these papers enhances the regret which we all feel at the untimely death of Lord Hobart. He had a mind and a heart equally sound, and his minutes and letters convince us that if he had been living and in office he would not have allowed the present enhancement of the Salt duty in Madras without a hard struggle. His chief argument against the proposed tax was the poverty of the people. Lord Northbrook had proposed an increase of 3 annas, but Lord Hobart conclusively shewed that it would seriously press upon the poorer classes, and he was successful. Even the abolition of the customs line he contended would be no compensation to the people of Madras. He thus summarized his objections in a letter to the Duke of Argyll: "We opposed the scheme (1) because there is fair reason to suppose that any further increase of the salt tax here would diminish the consumption; (2) because to diminish the consumption of an article so necessary to life and health as salt is a great evil; (3) because the compensation (£50,000) offered is small compared with the extra taxation to be imposed, and which we estimated at £180,000; (4) because there is no way of applying this £50,000 in compensation to the class of agricultural labourers, who number some ten millions, and who would be the sufferers; (5) because Madras, for geographical reasons, suffers very little from the effect of the Customs line; because the Frontier Customs line is only one of the evils incidental to the system of differential taxes on salts, for which the simple and obvious remedy was the equalisation of the tax throughout India." His Lordship added: "For this purpose we should have been ready (though at the sacrifice of this Presidency) to agree to a small increase of our duty, but not for the partial and complicated remedy proposed, which not only did not cure, but increased the great evil—the existence of a differential rate of duty as between the different provinces of the Empire." Lord Northbrook accordingly abandoned his idea of making an increase of 3 annas to the Madras Salt duty. But Lord Lytton under the advice of Sir John Strachey has added 11 annas! Lady Hobart remarks: "It will be seen that it was only after the most careful study of the question that Lord Hobart formed the opinion which led him to object to even the slight increase in the salt tax in Madras of 3 annas, or 4½*d.* upon every 82 lb. of salt. In the beginning of the present year the tax was increased by 11 annas, or 1*s.* 4½*d.* This would have been greatly regretted by Lord Hobart, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the measure may be only temporary." In the Report of the census for the Madras Presidency for the year 1871-72 it is distinctly stated that "the sales of salt, allowing for the consumption in other districts, are not so large as to warrant the assumption that every individual of the population gets the quantity of salt that is essential for the maintenance of vigorous health." This is the opinion of Dr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, the highest medical authority

in that Presidency. According to the figures given in the census report, the average amount paid by each individual in taxation in Madras, after making allowance for local inequalities, was Rupees 2-4-5, which is little more than 4*s* 7*d*. per head; of this amount, after making allowance for the sale of Madras salt in Mysore, Hyderabad, and the Central Provinces, the salt tax fell with an incidence of probably not more than annas 5 per head, equal to about 7½*d*. Lord Hobart in one of his minutes says that there are sixteen millions of people in Madras, whose average income for a family of five persons is Rupees 120, or £12; the total taxation upon such an income amounts to rupees 11-4-5, or as nearly as possible £1 2*s* 7*d*. upon an income of £12. And to this heavy burden is now added an increased salt duty by about 33 percent. "It should be remembered," Lady Hobart justly remarks, "that the expences of such a family are entirely connected with food. There is not a penny to spare for illness, not a penny for education, among the poorest classes. Such a state of things must undermine the physical condition of the people, and it must almost necessitate that very fatalism which saps their energy. Such poverty must also be direct cause of the financial difficulty which is the only justification made for the increased taxation of the poorer natives. Increased taxation of the poorest natives seems to work in a very doubtful direction, and as if it would necessitate a further outlay in the future in the interests of an impoverished and discontented population. Any proposals for increased taxation in Madras must now fall upon a fever-stricken and famine-stricken country. It must be remembered that the direct cause of starvation during the recent famine was the high price of food. Food was to be had in nearly all the markets or bazars, but at too high a price; so that in one sense it was literally a financial famine. Increased taxation of the poorest classes seems therefore a questionable weapon for averting the recurrence of famines in India." We entirely concur. As we have often said a perfect equalization of the Salt tax is not practicable. The multiplication of taxes for the sake of a sentimental equality in the salt duty would be a grievous evil. It would be a worse evil if the very necessaries of life were to be taxed beyond endurance for the sake of public works. As Lord Hobart wrote—popular content is better than public works.

COL. MALLESON ON THE NATIVE STATES.

COL. MALLESON is peculiarly fitted to descant on the Native States. He has studied their past and present condition. He has viewed them from different stand-points—their attitude, resources and performances at the time of the early struggles of British Power in India, their alliance with the Portugese and French adventurers, and their internecine quarrels. He is acquainted with the internal economy of their states, their personal capabilities and character. We have before us an abstract of his recent lecture on the Native States of India in subsidiary alliance with the British Government. He divides these States into six groups or divisions, *viz.*, Rajputana, Central India, Western India, Southern India, Eastern India, and Northern with North-Western India. For aggressive purposes four of these divisions, he says, owing to small numbers and the undisciplined nature of the forces maintained by them, their defenceless situation, or to the jealousies of the petty chiefs, may be dismissed from consideration. He attaches greater importance to Southern and Central India states, comprising Hyderabad, Mysore, and Travancore, the great Maratha States of Gwalior and Indore, the Mahamedan State of Bhopal, and the small Rajput Principalities of Dhar and Dewas; but of all these, he considers Hyderabad, Gwalior, and Indore as really formidable. He looks upon Hyderabad as perhaps the most formidable Native State in all India. Independently of a contingent force of 5,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, and four batteries of artillery, commanded by British officers, and paid for out of the revenue of lands assigned for that purpose by the Nizam, Hyderabad maintains a separate force little short of 50,000 men, *viz.*, 37,000 infantry and 8,200 cavalry. It has also 725 guns. Many of these men, says Col. Malleson, are active, turbulent troops, who in periods of excitement are extremely difficult to restrain; and if in the crisis of 1857 Hyderabad, with its population of ten millions and its army of 50,000 men, had turned against the British, it would have been difficult for them to have maintained Southern and Western India. The Prime Minister of the Nizam, Sir Salar Jung was, however, a farseeing statesman, who believed in the fortunes of Great Britain, and without hesitation he gave all his influence to the continuance of a cordial understanding with the British. It is, however, observable that the irregular troops of Hydrabad are intended chiefly for Police and fiscal work. Col. Malleson does not notice but we may mention that the troops of Hyderabad are maintained under a sort of feudal system. The state has farmed out to different sirdars large tracts of land on condition that they are to supply a stipulated number of men, originally for military service but now for police and fiscal service. These men are employed for ordinary Police work and also to assist in the collection of revenue. The Sirdars have held their office from generation to generation. But Sir Salar Jung now sees that this feudal arrangement causes serious loss to the State, and so he has been trying to reduce the number of men and to relieve the Sirdars of the responsibility of maintaining them by making a money compensation to them for loss of revenue. In some cases he has stopped hereditary succession in the Sirdars. The whole tendency of Sir Salar Jung's policy is to relieve the treasury as much as possible. He is well aware that with peace secured by British arms it is not necessary for the Native States to maintain large armaments, and so he is endeavouring to assimilate the troops as much as possible to the administrative establishments of the State. This is as it should be. The troops of Hyderabad need not therefore be looked upon as a source of danger to the British Government. Inferior to Hyderabad in extent and in the number of its population, though scarcely inferior to it in aggressive power, is the Maratha State of Gwalior. The past of the State and the history of the House of Scindia, which has ruled it, has made it in a certain sense more dangerous than the others. The present ruler of Gwalior is pre-eminently a capable man, and above all things a soldier, able to manœuvre troops, alive to the improvements effected of late years in the scientific branches of the military profession, and one who had ever shown himself anxious to secure for himself the advantage of those improvements. He occupies a central position in India, is in the prime and perfection of manhood, his own Prime Minister, and, within his own dominions, absolute ruler. The dominions of Scindia comprise 33,000 square miles, and the population, mostly Hindus, number nearly 3,000,000. By the last treaty with the Government of India, Scindia is empowered to maintain an army of 5,000 men and thirty-six guns. He maintains a regular army of that strength, but in addition to it he can dispose of an irregular force numbering about 17,000 infantry and cavalry, and 170 guns. The past history of the wars of India with the English gave an apt illustration of the advantage accruing to the native army from the presence in its ranks of European officers. The battle of Laswari in 1803 afforded the best example of contest between a purely Maratha army and a force of combined European and native troops, the latter led by English officers; and it showed, as the actions on the Sutlej and in the Punjab proved subsequently, that native soldiers would fight splendidly, even against Europeans, but that they only required to be led. Side by side with English troops, and opposed to an enemy whom those English were eager to encounter, they would vie with their English comrades. This spirit of their English comrades would communicate itself to them, and would animate every nerve. At Laswari fighting against English without officers to lead them, they displayed, writes the historian an eye-witness, Major Thorn, "firmness of resolution and contempt of death which could not fail to command the admiration of their opponents." If, however, the Maharaja were one day ill-disposed towards the British, his means of aggression are not very formidable, and the occupation by Britisn troops of Gwalior and Morar formed a powerful defence against aggression on his part. Col. Malleson next turns to Indore. He says, "far less formidable than the two previous States is Indore, a straggling territory with a population of about half a million, with armed retainers numbering 8,500, and possessing 102 guns." The character of the Maharaja Holkar is a guarantee of peace. He takes no pride in military glory, but he takes greater delight in the triumphs of peace. He occupies himself with the internal affairs of his State, and shews great knowledge, ability, and vigour in dealing with them.

But the question arises whether the Native States, though singly not worth taking into calculation as a fighting element, may not give trouble when united. On this point Col. Malleson says: "Singly the native States were comparatively harmless, but it should be remembered that if all the states were united, they could dispose of 64,172 cavalry, 241,063 foot soldiers, and 9,300 trained artillerymen working 5,252 guns; and the question might arise as to how the British Governmen t could meet this enormous force if its component parts were to combine against us. But in meeting this question the first point to be remarked is that they never would unite. It had been the dream of Madhoji Scindia, the greatest statesman India ever produced, to combine during the last decade of the last century all India against the British, but the jealousy and hatred existing between the native princes had made the task impossible; and now it would be quite as difficult to effect such a coalition against a common enemy, for no single native State would wish the supremacy of England destroyed in order that such supremacy might be bestowed on another native State. But even if union were possible we possessed arms of precision such as the native princes had not; we guarded our fortresses, our magazines, our arsenal with the Europeans; we had cannon beside which the cannon of the native princes were exploded weapons; and the Suez Canal, was available for the transport of our troops. If the trained and disciplined, well-armed and well provided sepoys failed in 1857, what chance would the combined rabble of the native princes have in 1878? Were they to attempt the chance, Assaye and Argaum would be repeated." Quite so. Union among the Native States under British Paramountcy is not possible. Apart from the fact that the Native States are composed of such discordant elements that practically there is no prospect of cohesion, the organization of the British Government is such that they cannot make any approach to combination without the knowledge of the British Power, and without being at once nipped in the bud at once. All the important congeries of Native States are united by railways and telegraphs, and these two most important safeguards of peace and power are always in the service of the British Government. Then the British Resident is omnipotent in a Native State, and no cabal can dare plot or intrigue without being at once detected and punished by him. And above all it is not the interest of the Native States to overthrow the British yoke. No Oriental Power can compensate the might, prestige and moral influence of the British Raj. Old anarchy and confusion would come again the moment the British Govern ment will withdraw, and no native would willingly court such a calamity. Such being the case it is absurd on the part of the British Government to think of a combination of the Native Princes and therefore to propose a reduction of their military forces.

THE MEHERPORE CASE.

WE have received the following letter anent this case:

"Now that the case has come to an end, with nobody to blame for the murder of Munsaff Sheik, an inhabitant of Bhatpara, in Meherpur, let me narrate some unknown circumstances connected with its origin, progress and end. Mr. James White is a nephew of Mr. Patrick Smith, proprietor of Katlia factory, in Meherpur. Under this Sudder Indigo factory, there are two smaller ones at Tentoolbaria and Bhatpara, of which Mr. James White is the manager. At

Bhatpara there lived a woman named Peary whom, it is said, Mr White removed to Ramdebpore, a village few miles off from Tentoolbaria as his kept mistress with whom, it is alleged, the deceased had a secret intrigue.

Towards the latter end of May 1877, it is stated, that the deceased had been fined, along with several of his neighbours by Mr. White for injury done to his garden by their buffaloes. With a view to get this fine remitted the deceased requested Jadu Bairagi, brother of Peary, and one Sital Khansama to speak to the Shaheb on his behalf. On the 26th of May 1877 he went to Ramdebpore, put up with his cousin Golam at night, on the following morning he met with his death at Peary's house.

Now there are two versions of the death of Munsaff, It would appear from the evidence of one Mamtal, a cow-boy in the service of Mr. White, that the man "was beat to death by Jadu, Balai, Kristo and Jogi, under Shaheb's order." The other side of the story, as appears from the evidence before the High Court is that the man had been murdered by Mr. White himself, at Peary's house, in the presence of Balai, Jadu, Jogi and others. Both the versions have fallen to the ground on the cross-examination of the witnesses.

On the occurrence of this tragedy Mr. F. B. Taylor, the then Assistant Magistrate of Meherpore, for reasons unknown to us, perhaps for not finding direct evidence against Mr. White, charged two men Shital Khansama and Jadu Bairagi brother of Peary with the offence and took eight months' time to decide the case. There was one direct witness against these two men, in the person of Mamlat whose recantation of his statement, stated above before the Police and the Magistrate, led to the acquittal of them. But Mamlat was not prosecuted for perjury as had been done in the Lokenathpore case. In this way the Meherpore case was put out of public view until the correspondent of the *Statesman* and the *Hindoo Patriot* drew public attention to it. It was this correspondent who obtained the permission of the B. I. A to spend the money contributed by that body for the Lokenathpore case in order to procure copies of the records of this case, and the copies so taken were published in the *Hindoo Patriot* in March last, this was followed by several articles and letters on this subject in the *Patriot* and *Statesman* in March and April last which drew the attention of Sir Ashley Eden. The Lieutenant-Governor ordered Mr. Munro, Inspector General of Police, to look into the case. Under Mr. Munro's order, Mr. Showers, the District Superintendent of Police, with the assistance of Babu Omritolal Ganguli, an officer of an adjoining factory at Natipotah and Babu Kristo Lal Roy, a Police Inspector, went to Gangore Thanna, collected all the witnesses and arrested Mr White. He was then tried by Mr. Stevens the District Magistrate of Krishnaghur and committed to the Sessions where he has been acquitted.

Now I ask you, Mr. Editor, who is responsible for the murder of Munsaff Shaik. Why was not the trial held until after a period of 14 months, and whoever the murderer, why was he not brought to trial immediately on the commission of the deed? Perhaps it may be urged that there was then no evidence forthcoming against him. But when after the lapse of 14 months, more than 15 witnesses had been found against him, could not they have been forthcoming, had a proper attempt been made to procure them? The general impression is that the late trial would not have taken place if the Calcutta papers had not raised their voice and had not Sir Ashley Eden directed his attention to the case.

The *Statesman* publishes a letter on the same subject from which we make the following extract:

"There had been a murder, but the police had not been able in five months, to find a murderer. So the case dropped and seemed likely to remain a mystery—is it probably will remain now. Is it not strange that for months after the murder, there was not only no conspiracy against White, but only one witness was found who connected his name with the murder, and this witness withdrew his statement before the Magistrate? Is it not strange that of all those persons who were banded together in a conspiracy, against White last week, not one should have attempted to implicate him in the crime last year? The police and magisterial investigation was allowed to pass, and the case to drop, before any of the *Sahib's* enemies thought of conspiring against him. But after the investigation was all over, and the case had dropped, and the excitement occurred at Krishnaghur about the Lokenathpore case, people began to talk about the mysterious murder in Meherpore. 'And it was rumoured that though no evidence had been produced, against White, popular opinion laid the murder at his door In my opinion these facts point rather to a conspiracy of silence in White's favour last year, than to a conspiracy of malice against him now. Then the case found its way into the papers, and attracted the attention of Government. The Inspector-General of Police was asked to enquire; a new Superintendent of Police was appointed, and in the course of a very short enquiry, the latter found a lot of evidence of the character we have seen, directly charging White with the murder. It was full of contradictions, and witnesses gave evidence very different from what they had given a year ago, and it certainly would have been unsafe to convict upon such evidence; but neither do I think it wise to make too much of the conspiracy theory, because, as I have tried to show there is at least as much ground for thinking that there was a conspiracy to save White last year, as that there was one to hang him the other day.

One other point seems to me important. Until the very close of the trial in the High Court, I was quite unable to discover any real motive for the murder, or even assault, on the part of White. There was a story about his having fined the prisoner a rupee or two, and that the man came to beg remission of the fine on the ground of his poverty. There was no great provocation in that. It is hardly credible that White would even have kicked the man for merely asking another man to intercede for him with the *saheb*, to get his fine remitted. Besides, White denies the whole story about the fine. Be that as it may, all the witnesses I think agreed in saying that the deceased was at the house of a woman named Peary, when he was killed. They say that White rode up to the house, and on finding Munsaf there, assaulted him, and ended by killing him. Now, White himself admits, in his statement, which was read in court by Mr. Bell, that this woman was living under his protection. I have further been told that the deceased is said to have had an intrigue with this woman. If this is true, it is easy to see that there may have been a more intelligible motive for White assaulting the man, The mere fact that he had let his buffalo stray into Whit's garden, and was unable to pay the fine is hardly worth naming: the other matter vital."

All speculations about the motive of the murder in the absence of satisfactory evidence must be *ad captandam*. We do not wonder that the witnesses, poor and illiterate persons, broke down before the cross-fire of the barristers, and that the Judge and jury dis-believed them, and acquitted the prisoner without calling for the evidence in defence. But who is responsible for the break-down of the case? We do not hesitate to say, the district authorities. Mr. Bell, the prosecuting Counsel, more than once said that the great delay, which had occurred in the trial, materially affected the evidence. In opening the case he remarked that "a considerable deal of time had elapsed since it was alleged the offence had been committed, and it was therefore necessary for the jury to weigh the evidence very carefully." Again: "It was a rather unfortunate circumstance that this trial took place more than a year after the offence was alleged to have been committed, but it was a circumstance almost as unfortunate for the Crown as for the prisoner, because although it might be difficult in the case of the prisoner to prove what he was doing at a particular time about thirteen months ago, it was equally difficult for the Crown to procure reliable and trustworthy evidence as to what actually took place." So the delay has marred the whole case. The witnesses had been off and on examined, and as might be expected of men of their class they contradicted themselves at every fresh examination. When intelligent and educated persons with good memory cannot always swear to precise statements in a Court of justice under a brisk fire of cross-examination, it is no wonder that the witnesses in this case did not stick to a particular line of statements. The influence of our Police and Courts on the lower class of witnesses is also not very healthy. We do not know how far the Police is responsible for the break down of the evidence in the Meherpore case. The *Indu-European Correspondence*, which cannot certainly be accused of race-feeling, makes some pungent remarks on the character and credibility of the evidence of natives of the lower order. Now, the judicial utterances in England shew that there is not much to choose between a large body of witnesses in that country and here—"they all do it, Mamma," as Lady Mordaunt says. But here our laws and institutions exert a pernicious influence upon the character of evidence. The habit of the oriental mind has also much to answer for; it is generally discursive exaggerative, and easily confused; even educated men cannot always give a simple and direct "yes" or "no" answer to a question. So it is not the moral obliquity of the Indian mind but the want of proper training, which detracts from the value of Indian evidence. We hope the Meherpore case will not end here. The Government is bound to enquire why the case was kept in suspense for more than a year. However untrustworthy the evidence it is clear enough that the man was murdered. The same fact was equally evident in the Lokenathpore case. Thus there were two atrocious murders committed in the district of Nuddea, and in both the cases the local executive failed to trace the real authors of the foul deeds and to vindicate the law. Could anything be more scandalous than this? Law has been reduced to a mockery, justice to a farce. And yet all the parapharnalia of British Justice are in full operation in the district of Nuddea. What is the cause of this collapse? The Government ought to investigate it.

THE POST OFFICE OF INDIA.

III.

WE invite the attention of the Director General of the Post Office to the following extract from the Resolution of the Government of India in the Financial Department on the postal report of 1873-74:

The expenditure in 1873-74 has certainly been large. The Governor-General in Council looks to the Director-General to enforce the saving of public money wherever it may be found possible. In a department which involves the administration of so great mass of details the Government is peculiarly dependent upon the hands of the department for watchful economy. The authorities of the Post Office have deserved the entire confidence of the Government in this respect, but continued vigilance must be exercised so that this department shall be administered at the smallest possible cost consistent with economy."

From the figures we furnished in our last it would appear that the cause, which evoked the above exhortation, still exists and is in full operation, and there is now greater reason for the exercise of circumspection and vigilance. The expenditure instead of decreasing since 1873-74 has gone on increasing, and we do not know where its progress may stop. We have already shewn that the plea of expansion of the work of the department does not hold water. We have pointed out how the expenditure on the whole has been slowly but steadily increasing, and what proportion of that expenditure is absorbed by salaries and establishment, and we find that the same condition of things obtains in every description of charge. The following is an abstract of the miscellaneous and contingent expenditure for the last six years:

1871-72	Rs.	5,50,843	1874-75	Rs.	7,69,265
1872-73	,,	5,70,010	1875-76	,,	7,05,935
1873-74	,,	6,95,381	1876-77	,,	7,26,788

We are afraid that this increase cannot be set to the account of expansion of postal work. Throughout the postal department the contingent expenditure of the minor offices is included in their fixed establishment, and they are paid a fixed sum monthly, from which they have to meet all expenditure such as stationary, oil, pitch, sealing wax &c., The above amounts therefore shew the fluctuating expenditure of the head offices of administration and the Presidency Post Offices. There are, we admit, certain items of expenditure incurred by the department under circumstances, over which it has no control, such as temporary postal arrangements made to meet the requirements of Military Expeditions and Camps of Exercise. There are also certain other items such as the haulage of sorting carriages, (that is amount paid to the guaranteed Railway Companies for Post Office carriages,) construction of railway sorting carriages, special trains (that is the cost of journeys made by high Postal authorities in special carriages specially assigned to them and which are detached from and joined to trains according to their convenience) and law and printing charges, which are unavoidable, and which occur in various proportions from year to year. For the last six years these charges have amounted as shewn below:

1871-72	Rs.	79,187	1874-75	Rs.	68,274
1872-73	,,	85,934	1875-76	,,	78,902
1873-74	,,	69,500	1876-77	,,	75,335
			yearly average		76,088

Then we have another item of charge on account of printing, which is incurred everywhere except in Bengal, where the work is done by the Government Central Press. The cost of printing amounts on an average to Rs. 82,000 per annum. Allowing the utmost latitude the aggregate of the two sums ought not in any year to exceed Rs. 1,75,000 except in great emergencies and under special circumstances. Now, the question is how is the balance of the miscellaneous and contingent expenditure to be accounted for? The Post Masters General cannot have much contingent expenditure, as many of them get their supply of stationery from Government stores, the cost of which has not been included in the figures shewn in the first of the above statements; post office forms are also printed at the Government Press, and where they are departmentally printed, their cost is included in the printing charges referred to above. They make use of the telegraph now and then, and there is occasional employment of temporary establishments. We forget that there is the cost of bags, the most important item of contingent expenditure. It is to be regretted that the form in which the accounts of the department are presented to the public does not admit of close scrutiny. It would seem, as if it is done more to mystify what ought to be as clear as a crystal than to allow outsiders to obtain a fair knowledge, and it is a matter of no little wonder that Government is satisfied with an apparently unintelligible array of figures. The most expensive in regard to contingent expenditure are the Presidency Post Offices and the Travelling Post Offices, and of them we shall say a few words. The description of stores they require are guzee cloth, pitch, sealing wax, packing paper, twine, ball-twine, gunnies, stamping

ink &c. -Post stamp and letter boxes, we have omitted to mention, are supplied from the Allygurh workshop and the cost of these stores like that of stationary and other items are taken into account by book-debit. These offices get their supply from contractors, and if we take Calcutta as a model of the contracting system, all that we can say is, that it is not at all like the ordinary practice of obtaining stores in the cheapest market by means of competition, but the execrable system of wilfully throwing oneself into the hands of a monopolist; and we have not seen for a decade a change in the contractorship of the Calcutta Post Office. We have never seen that the Calcutta Post Office invites tenders or tries to obtain the most favorable rates in the cheapest market. The same man or company is supplying stores from year to year, there is a sort of permanent settlement, which is detrimental to the growth of healthy competition. From the intimate relationship, which existed between the contractor and a late Post Master as disclosed in the late trial in the High Court before Justice Macpherson, in which Mr. Alpin, the late Officiating Post Master cut such a sorry figure, the head of the department, however free from blame, cannot escape the odium, which attaches to a monopoly. Under the rules in force the Director General's power of sanctioning contingent expenditure was limited to Rs. 2,500, which we are sorry to learn has been since extended to Rs. 5000, and that of the Post Master General to Rs. 500. Why do the officers, who are interested in the sanction of expenditure of this description seek to avoid scrutiny of an independent office by splitting their bills so as to bring the accounts within the limit of departmental sanction? We cannot too strongly condemn the indulgence granted by the Government in allowing the departmental audit of bills and adjustment of accounts of this kind to be final. The only competent authority in India, whose audit ought to be final, is the Comptroller General, and we leave it to the Finance Minister to consider whether departmental audit ought not to be done away with altogether. It is a mockery, if not worse. How can that officer act independently, whose transfer and promotion or removal and degradation depend upon the will and pleasure of the head of the department, whose accounts and bills he audits? And the Compiler of Post Office Accounts is an officer, who can be made and unmade by the breath of the Director General. There is another consideration, which makes the transfer most desirable, and that is the indirect and unconscious influences to which the Compiler is subject. The chief officers of the department, whose bills and accounts he audits and adjusts, are men of the same class with him, and unless he be more than a man it could not be expected that he would use his clipping scissors freely without restraint. The most inexorable auditor is apt to swerve from the path of duty;—there are so many influences at work that even an officer of iron will and inflexible firmness will be apt to succumb. If nothing else can be done the Compiler ought immediately to be made independent of the Director General.

There are a few more items to which we shall allude. Firstly, the mail cart service. It is a postal service and is chiefly maintained for the conveyance of mails over tracts of country, where the ordinary carrying agency cannot prove efficient. It has the advantage in some places of a portion of its expenditure being recouped from the passenger service. But while it is maintained in all the circles, there are only three or four from which any return is obtained, and they are Bengal, North Western Provinces, and the Punjab. By the extension of State Railways the demand for this service is yearly decreasing, but it is curious to observe that the decrease in expenditure is scarcely appreciable as will be seen from the figures given below:

1871-72	Rs.	5,95,050	1874-75	Rs.	4,67,772
1872-73	,,	5,37,196	1875-76	,,	4,44,663
1873-74	,,	4,76,247	1876 77	,,	4,68,752

There may be good and sufficient reason for this expenditure, but when we remember the case of Mr. Rollow, Superintendent of the Darjeeling Line some years ago, we naturally become suspicious and feel bound to serve the authorities with a refresher. There is another branch of the postal service which absorbs a tenth part of its whole expenditure, we allude to the local steamer service respecting which we take leave to ask the Director General a few questions. Is it necessary for the postal department to avail itself of the communication maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Company between Calcutta and Bombay, when there is a daily railway communication between the two places? The intermediate posts on the Coromandel and Malabar Coasts are important places, and we presume there is postal communication by land between those places and Madras and Bombay. Is it necessary for public convenience to maintain with them a water-communication as well? The subsidy granted to the British India Steam Navigation Company is close upon Rs. 60,000 a month, at least that is the average of the last six years—was any attempt made to obtain by competition more favorable rates? While it is but bare truth to say that the British India Steam Navigation Company is the most respectable body of shipowners in this port, there is something so repugnant to the feeling of justice and fair play to allow a particular body to enjoy a perpetual monopoly of Government patronage that nothing less than very strong public reasons can satisfy such an arrangement.

Mr. Monteath is deservedly esteemed as one of the ornaments of the competitive service. In him there is a rare combination of great capacity for work and unimpeachable rectitude of character, and we feel quite sure that a wrong has only to be brought to his notice in order to its being rectified. Does Mr. Monteath know that the Compiler's office has been without a head clerk for the last two years? Does he know that the office has become a sort of Babel for want of a superintending head to maintain discipline amongst 150 clerks? Is not the House-allowance granted to Mr. Dillon, the Officiating Compiler, eked out from the saving of the head clerk's pay? Is it to him a special allowance or is it made a part of the permanent emoluments of the Compiler? Is the Director General aware that Mr. Dillon lived with Mr. Alpin for ten months or so in the Calcutta Post Office building? Has he taken notice of the amount of House rent saved by this most convenient arrangement? We stop here today.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THE FOLLOWING is the latest weather report:

Saturday 10 A. M Barometer has fallen generally during the preceding twenty-four hours. Fall is greatest in Assam Eastern Bengal Upper Seinde and the Punjab. over which it averages one-tenth inches. Partial break in rains continues, and moderate rain has fallen during past day in Assam, Bengal, and Behar. Heaviest falls are Patna twenty-one-tenths Chittagong nineteen tenths Goalpara twelve-tenths Purneah eleven-tenths Dacca seven-tenths Calcutta six-tenths. Good rain in Central Deccan where hitherto it has been somewhat scanty and important rainfall are Bellary fifteen tenths Masulipatam seventeen tenths Belgaum Raichore and Cuddapah one inch each. Excessive rainfall at Colombo continues. Fifty eight tenths fell there during past 24 hours. Its average July rainfall is twenty seven tenths for whole month.

ENGLAND has got a victory on the Eastern Question—not over Russia but over Turkey, without shedding a drop of blood. The latter has ceded Cyprus to England on condition of defensive alliance. The Indian troops despatched to Malta will be quartered in Cyprus.

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to announce the death of Mr. H. Blochman, Principal, Madrassa College, which melancholy event took place on Saturday last. His remains were interred yesterday morning by a large number of friends, including some two hundred Mahomedan gentlemen. The lamented deceased was in the prime of life, about 40 years of age, and his loss is mourned by a large circle of friends and admirers. A German by birth he picked up his English in India, and passed in three or four years the several University examinations successively. He was also a profound Arabic scholar and from his connection with the Asiatic Society he devoted himself most sedulously to the pursuit of oriental literature. He was indefatigable in his researches, and the results of his labours in the shape of papers, articles, compilations, translations, historical accounts and disquisitions were most valuable. The cause of Oriental Literature has suffered a severe loss in the person of Mr. Blochman. As a man he was amiable, genial, and very obliging.

IN MARCH last, the Government of India recommended for the Secretary of State's consideration a scheme; proposed by the Director of Public Instruction, in Bengal, for grading the subordinate officers in the Educational Department. The scheme which was supported by the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal was approved by the Government of India with a modification. The Secretary of State now concurs with that Government in thinking that seven classes will be quite sufficient; and on the understanding that the expense involved is to be charged to the Provincial revenues of the Lower Provinces has sanctioned the proposed arrangement. Thus Sir Ashley Eden has redressed a long-standing grievance of the subordinate branch of the Education Department.

AS AN ILLUSTRATION of the pernicious tendency of the Vernacular Press Act a paper has been placed in our hands, which shews that an author Babu Rojonikant Gupta cannot find a printer for his new work "the History of the Great Sepoy War." He says: "In consequence of the enactment of the Vernacular Press Act, the printers are unwilling to take the responsibility of publishing a book like the History of the Sepoy War." We are not surprised at this result. Let the supporters of the law say whether it is not calculated to repress oriental literature.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY, we observe, has attracted the attention of some of our contemporaries. They state that the Special Committees on the Market and the Collectorate are working vigorously. It would not be judicious to give premature publicity to the labours of these Committees, but we are glad to learn that the Chairman is cordially co-operating with them in making a sifting enquiry into the working of the two departments. We need hardly mention that the Committees cannot hope to achieve success unless they are supported by the Chairman, and we have reasons to believe that Mr. Metcalfe is now satisfied that the enquiry has been set on foot not too soon. The elected Commissioners will have vindicated their existence and Mr. Metcalfe his own appointment if they can put the house in order, a performance of which they have already given a fair promise. With regard to the rumour about the appointment of Mr. Blonde as superintendent of the Municipal Market we learn that it is due to the serious illness of Mr. Bartlett. The public anxiously await the reports of the two Committees.

WE TAKE the following from Parliamentary intelligence:

Petition Presented.—By Mr. Gladstone, from inhabitants of Poonah and Bombay, and from the members of a society of natives, on the subject of the recent law relating to the Vernacular Press, praying the House to condemn the measure which forms the subject of the petition, and to make the further continuance of the present policy impossible, also to insure the progressive freedom of Her Majesty's Indian subjects by enlarging the representative element in the Legislative Council of India, and by directing the adoption of such other measures as the House should deem fit.

The London Correspondent of the *Engilshman* makes the following allusion to the motion:

The petitioners seem to have fancied that the ex-premise was somehow the House of Commons, as the petition concluded with the words, "We beg to remain, Honourable Sir, your most humble memorialists. This error, however, allowed the ex-premier to make a speech about the petition, which he went out of his way to describe as being an elaborate and able argument against the Press Law. The petition, I may add, contained a suggestion for enlarging the representative element in the Legislative Council of India.

Another correspondent says that Mr. Gladstone was cheered when he presented the petition. The debate on Mr. Gladstone's motion regarding the Vernacular Press Act will take place on the 16th instant.

THE ENGLISHMAN has discovered a veritable mares nest. Mr. Westland in his report on Jessore stated that "the first outbreak of Gangetic fever," originated at Muhammadpur (Mahmudpur?) in 1835, when some "five or seven hundred prisoners were employed in making the road which joins Jessore and Dacca, or which was intended to join them, and which passes through them."

Referring to this statement our contemporary says:

This passage has been naturally seized upon with avidity by the exponents of the theory, that roads obstruct the drainage of the country they pass through, and produce epidemic fever by generating malaria. Assistant Surgeon Annodaprosad Kastogiri also, following close on the wake of Raja Degambar Mittra, in a pamphlet on malarious fever, brings this forward as a remarkable instance in support of his contention. Unfortunately for both these gentlemen, however, the road stated by them to have been constructed in 1835 on the authority of Mr. Westland, who is usually accurate in the information furnished by him, was in reality in existence during the last century, as a reference to Map of A D 1769, supplied with Vol II of "Selections from the *Calcutta Gazette*" by Mr. Sandeman, will clearly shew. There this identical road which connects Calcutta with Dhaka *via* Jessor and Mahmudpur, will be found to be plainly marked.

Now, we have referred to the map, contained in Vol. 4, not Vol. 2, of "Selections from the *Calcutta Gazette*," and will the reader believe it that the Dacca Road from Calcutta does not touch Jessore at all—it passes Mahmudpur about 30 miles off from Dacca. So much for the fact which the writer—we do not think our usually well-informed contemporary is himself guilty of this bold and unsupported statement—asserts with such overweening confidence. So far as Raja Degumber Mitter is concerned he is perfectly correct in his fact, for the *JessoreRoad* joining Nuddea on one side and the Dacca road at Mahmudpur on the other was constructed in about 1836, and a virulent fever broke out in the town thereafter. As regards Mahmudpur Dr. Kastugiri is also right, because when the Jessore road was joined with the Dacca road it was raised on high level, and the drainage being intercepted the town of Mahmudpur was almost depopulated by fever. As for roads intercepting drainage, unless provided with sufficient waterway, it is such a truism that we need not discuss it. The devastations of fever in the English town of Portsmouth on which we wrote last year under similar circumstances offer a conclusive evidence on the point. So much for the facts of the *Englishman's subjanta* critic.

WE HAVE before us the prospectus of a scheme started by some officers of the P. W. D. for the establishment of a Provident Fund for the benefit of the subordinate branches of the Department. The object of the Fund is two-fold, firstly to offer facilities to old and deserving officers to retire, and secondly to make provision for the widows and orphans of deceased officers. The prospectus states, "for the first of these aims, it is intended to assist—first, a certain number of seniors who, after thirty years' service perhaps, might, not unreasonably, wish to retire, but who could not do so without some pecuniary assistance outside the official pension to which they might be entitled; secondly, those who, having entered the department a first or second time late in life, and being advanced in years would gladly, after a short service in it, retire on the pension such service might entitle them to, if it were supplemented by a contribution from the Fund; thirdly, those who, from failing health, would retire with such assistance as the Fund could give, as would enable them to engage in some occupation less laborious and less exposed than ours." An institution of the kind proposed has become necessary, and we wish the projectors very success.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following letter anent the proposed Jessore Railway:

Sometime in 1876 routes for the proposed rail-road to Jessore were surveyed, and we were informed that on the report of the overseers the authorities have selected the route through Bongong in Nadiya. In the latter case it is proposed to start a branch line from Chakdah. The distance from that station on the E. B. R. line to Jessore along the existing roads is nearly 43 miles. The distance from Kissengung station on the E. B. R. line through Kote Chandpur to Jessore is about 46 miles. The distance along the second route, of course, following in both the instances the course of the existing roads, is only 3 miles, more than along the first line. Now, Sir the question is which of the two lines is likely to prove profitable and paying? It is not for me to enunciate, the principles, which ought to guide and direct the course of new rail-roads. It is undeniable that the iron road diffuses civilisation on both sides of its line and creates new cities and towns as it traverses, and arguments have not been unoften urged on this ground so moulding or framing the course of new rail roads as to make them pass through uninhabited and the most backward places. It would be most unprecedented in the history of railroads to open a line through wild and backward parts of the country, altogether ignoring and overlooking principal towns, which might be reached by deviating in a small degree from a straight line. In the present case, however, the deviation is only 3 miles, which will entail an extra expenditure of 4½ lacs of rupees, but if doing so the rail-road could get more traffic and develope new trades and resources of the country, which for absence of good means of transport, are now lying dormant. We do not see why should not the Government be moved to adopt the latter course.

The advantages of adopting the Kote Chandpur line are manifold. 1st, The existing sugar trade would have a new impetus. The trade in chittagoor which is at the present moment wholly carried on by boats will have a new opening.

Kote Chandpur is a great place for jute and pulses, and the railroad will develop the trade of that part of the country. Kote Chandpur is the mart of Northern Jessore, and is the shortest road from Kissengung to Faridpur. The people of northern Jessore have a claim upon Government as by the opening of the E. B. R. one of their principal rivers the Bhoyrub or the Kobarthak has been closed and dried up. Should a new line be opened through Bongong which is a sub-divisional village only, the river below that place would be silted up and places below that village would be put to the same inconvenience to which those about Chandpur have been put. The Kote Chandpur line would meet three other good marts the like of which are not to be seen in the Bongong line. For the reasons mentioned above and diverse others, it is desirable that the new railway should branch off from Kissengung and pass through Kote Chandpur and not from Chakdah *via* Bongong. We beg, Mr Editor, you will kindly bring the above proposal to the notice of the Government and the public, and ventilate the subject properly before the Government commits itself to the Bongong line.

ANOTHER leading spirit has passed away! Raja Dukhinarunjun Mookerjea is dead. Just as we were closing the paper we received the following letter from Lucknow:

DEAR SIR,—It is with deep regret I have to inform you of the sad loss that has befallen our community here in the death of Raja Dukhina runjun Mookerjee, Talukdar of Shuckerpore in Roy Barelli Oudh, which sad event took place in his residence at Lucknow this morning at 9-30 A. M. The deceased nobleman was a grandson of Babu Soorjee Coomar Tagore of Calcutta. Having received a first class education he was imbued with the idea of benefitting his fellow-creatures, and from his earliest days he formed associations to discuss on various subjects, but most specially those which appertained to the government of the country. He had a high respect for the governing class and on all occasions took pleasure in impressing on the people the advantages of British rule.

From a spirit of independence truly commendable he sojourned in various districts in Lower Bengal and at last turned his thoughts to Lucknow where he arrived immediately after the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, and by his tact and ingenuity so far succeeded in reconciling the Talukdars and gentry of Oudh to British rule that it obtained for him high encomiums from Lord Canning the then Viceroy of India, who granted him a sunnud conferring on him the Taluck of Shuckerpore in Rai Berelli Oudh, which was forfeited to the British Crown by the rebellion of its chief Bani Madho, who refused to avail himself of the mercy offered him by Lord Canning in his celebrated proclamation. Babu Dukhinarunjun Mookerjee with commendable zeal strengthened the hands of Government and justly created for himself an honorable distinction in the Oudh administration during those troublesome times. By his zeal and assiduity he not only strengthened the hands of Government but benefitted the Talukdars and the people of Oudh in a ten fold degree. At a time when the minds of the governing class were sorely irritated against the people of this country Babu Dukhinarunjun by his tact and ingenuity so interpreted to each other the governors and the governed that he was hailed as a peace-maker and as such was respected by both. He was the personal friend of Sir Charles Wingfield and the successive Chief Commissioners of Oudh and was honored with their confidence. He was the trusted friend of Maharajah Mansing and the other talukdars of Oudh and for their common benefit established an Association known as the "Talukdars' Association," of which he was the first Secretary. His zeal for the interests of the Association was so great that he often risked the friendship of his English friends and went the length of offending his best friend Sir Charles Wingfield and the Hon'ble Mr. Davis rather than yield an iota of his convictions as to what was right for the good of the Talukdars and the people of Oudh. To the credit of those honorable gentlemen, be it said that they were soon convinced of the singleness of purpose of Babu Dukhinarunjun Mookerjee and the clouds that hung over the horizon of his fame soon passed way, and they were again as warm friends as ever. Sir Charles Wingfield obtained for him the sunnud and the award of the Taluq from Lord Canning and the Honorable Mr. Davis recommended him highly for the Rajaship.

For fourteen years ago Raja Dukhina Runjun laboured incessantly and zealously for the cause of the good Government of Oudh and for the benefit of its people and the nobles of the land. He had the satisfaction to find that his heart's best wishes were satisfied. The Government was firmly established. The people were contented and the Taluqdars as a body obtained their just rights. In the midst of his useful career he was struck down by disease and was confined to his bed for a period of four years. Even then he did not lie unmindful of his duties to the body he belonged from the year 1874. He steadily began to sink till it culminates in his final dissolution at the age of sixty-four. He has left his grandson, Bhobbon Runjun Mookerjee, a minor, his heir to his estates, and notwithstanding his strong protest against some of the Government measures he had so much faith in the honesty and justice of its officers that he has left his grandson to the care and guardianship of Government.

Thus has passed away from us one of our leading men, one whose suavity of manners and genial disposition and whose willingness to do good to his fellow-creatures had become proverbial.

Yours faithfully,

A FRIEND.

Luchnow, the 11th July 1878.

We regret that we have neither time nor space for a lengthened notice of the career of Raja Dukhinaranjun Mookerjea, which was varied, in some respects brilliant, and taken as a whole instructive. He was a remarkable man. He was one of the first fruits of the late Hindu College and gave early promise of future excellence. He was a prominent member of the first batch of the Hindu College alumni, whom Mr. James Hume gave the *sobriquet* of Chuckerbutty Faction, and who in after life distinguished themselves by their patriotic and public-spirited labours. Babu Dukhinaranjun Mookerjea possessed indomitable energy and wonderful elasticity of mind. He had many ups and downs in life, but he never lost his equilibrium. He was one of the early educated Bengalis, who first recognized the power of the press and conjointly with the late Babu Russick Krishna Mullick, and Babu Peary Chand Mitter, started the *Bengal Spectator*, an Anglo-Bengali periodical. Later in life he established the *Samachar Hindoosthani* and purchased the *Lucknow Times* in the interest of the Oudh Talookdars. In his palmy days at Calcutta he co-operated with the Hon'ble Mr. Bethune in founding the Bethune Female School. He was a prominent member of the British Indian Association, at which in 1859 he made a remarkable speech on Lord Canning's Oudh policy, which brought him to his Lordship's notice, and ultimately placed him in the exalted position of interpreter between the Government and the aristocracy and people of Oudh and *vice versa*. In fact, he shewed his greatest usefulness in Oudh. He renovated Oudh and stamped his mind upon its administration and social and political life. Our correspondent has given a sketch of his career in Oudh. What an educated Bengali, if he has the right stuff in him, can do in the way of ameliorating the condition of his countrymen, is best illustrated in the person of the late Raja Dukhinaranjun Mookerjea.

MR. AITCHISON, the new Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, has directed his attention to the *morale* of his subordinates. A "confidential" communication has been addressed to the divisional Commissioners, which has, however, seen the light of publicity, and from which we give the following extract:

"The Chief Commissioner regrets to see from the evidence in the case that both Mr. * * and Mr. * * have long formed degrading and immoral connections with the women of the country. With regard to the moral aspect of the matter the Chief Commissioner has nothing to say that is not better said by each mans conscience, to which the Chief Commissioner is content to leave it. But the matter has a public aspect and the Chief Commissioner feels it his duty to say that the formation of relations of the kind referred to by officers of Government is dishonouring to the officer, who enter into them, *detrimental to their usefulness and efficiency as public servants*, and lays them open to influences or the imputation of influences, which not unfrequently interfere with the administration of justice. In future, the Chief Commissioner will not fail to visit with substantial and severe marks of displeasure any case of the kind which may come officially before him."

British Burmah has become infamous for "immoral connections." But we have the comforting assurance of the Judicial Commissioner that this taint has not soiled the fountain of justice.

THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT has reported that it apprehends a second famine. The Madras Famine Committee report in the same way. In their last report they state:

"The fear of yet great suffering has not yet passed; indeed many circumstances combine to indicate the immediate few months as likely to be a time of great pressure. The South-west monsoon has broken very mildly in some districts; in other localities locusts have done immense damage, and are still continuing their ravages. Food prices are steadily rising, and there seems no hope of a fall for several months at least. The prospect, therefore, is decidedly the reverse of encouraging."

The *C. and M. Gazette* reports that much distress prevails among the poorer classes in the City of Delhi, in the Mewat and Rewaree Pergunnahs of the Gurgoan district, in the Bhurtpur State, in the Kanvud, and Naruvul districts of the Pattiala and Nabha States, and in Rajpootana generally. Deaths from starvation are not uncommon, and large numbers of cattle have died. Although the recent rainfall may, aided by tuccavee advances, render the agricultural prospects more favorable than they have hitherto been, still the mortality among the cattle will seriously reduce the area to be cultivated for the autumnal crops. A large proportion of the cultivators are said to have emigrated to more favorable localities. Rain has fallen in Bombay, but we hear from Bombay that it has been thought advisable to re-open the relief works on the Mahaswud Tank in the Sattara district, as the scanty rainfall gives cause for anxiety. The outlook in several districts in Bengal is not encouraging. A friend thus writes from Hooghly:

"I fear we shall soon be in the midst of a famine of a severer type than any that we have ever had since the beginning of this century. The rains have ceased except a few drops here and there and even *aus* paddy seedlings are being destroyed, not to say any thing about the sad condition of *aman* seedlings. I am speaking chiefly of the Hooghly and Burdwan Districts. About the condition of the other Districts I cannot of course give you an accurate information, but you will be able to get it from other quarters. It is strange that here and there a few villages are enjoying as much of the "heavenly dews" as is necessary, but 90 percent of the villages are denied this blessing."

We hear that on Friday last there was a tremendous downpour in the districts of Beerbhoom, Burdwan and Hooghly and the north-east portion of 24-Pergunnahs. We hope this seasonable fall of rain will help cultivation.

THE bantling of bigotry nurtured by intolerance, which was, in the form of a proposition to send Dr. Mahendralala Sircar to coventry, committed by the Faculty of Medicine, to the fostering care of the Senate, came to a ludicrous end on Saturday last. The muster was strong no less than forty-six Fellows being present. The Vice-Chancellor opened the business by explaining the circumstances under which Dr. Sircar's appointment to the Faculty of Medicine was made; and then read the protest, which the Faculty had sent up, objecting to associate with the Doctor on the ground of his being a professed Homœopath. He also read an extract from a letter received from Dr. Sircar, and said that if, after the perusal of the document, the Medical Faculty should still be of opinion that Dr. Sircar had forfeited their confidence, the Senate should remove his name from the Faculty of Medicine. He then offered to read the letter. But Mr. Justice Jackson opposed the reading and was supported in his views by the Chief Justice. The question, however, being put to the meeting was carried, 20 voting for the reading and 10 against it. After the letter was read, Dr. Partridge proposed that the name of Dr. Sircar be transferred from the Faculty of Medicine to some other Faculty. Mr. Justice Jackson thought that the power of removal rested with the Syndicate. Justice R. C. Mitter moved an amendment to the effect that the matter be referred back to the Syndicate for consideration and disposal. The Rev. Father Lafont then dwelt at some length on the gravity of the question, the impropriety of re-calling a vote which was in every way proper, and that without any reason, and the evil effects of such a course on the freedom of science and the liberty of original research. He illustrated his remarks by reference to several instances in which theories diametrically opposed to received opinions had been put forth in England and France without in any way bringing on social stigma. Sir Richard Garth pointed out that had the question been whether Dr. Sircar should be retained or not on the Faculty, the remarks would have been to the point, but with the letter of Dr. Sircar before them the Senate could not but act up to his wishes. Dr. Rajendralala Mitra expressed his regret at the discussion having come on. He was sorry that an imprudent motion at the annual meeting had given cause to it. But the subject had already been discussed by a medical journal and a newspaper, and had caused a scandal, and the Senate could not now shirk the duty which had devolved on it. Mr. Justice Jackson protested against the language of the speaker. Dr. Mitra, while bowing to the opinion of the learned gentleman, remarked that whether as an opinion or as a protest, it was only the opinion of a single individual, and that was not in consonance with that of the public. A proposition involving the expulsion of a number could not but cause a scandal, and it was meet that the Senate should not make over the matter to the Syndicate to be disposed of in a hole and corner fashion. The subject having been formally submitted to it for reconsideration, it was called upon to express its opinion. As the sense of the meeting, however, seemed to be in favor of the amendment, he would suggest a-ryder to the effect that the Syndicate should report to the Senate how they decided the question. Hereupon the Chairman called the attention of the speaker to the last para of Dr. Sircar's letter in which he said, "I would still repudiate the exclusive and sectarian name of Homœopath applied to me. I claim the title of physician, and I claim the right thereunto appertaining, namely, liberty of reason to search after truth, and liberty of conscience to acknowledge truth, whenever and wherever found. In my hard struggles as a physician, as a practitioner of the most difficult art on earth, I have only endeavoured to exercise that right. If the Medical Faculty should declare that I have *thereby* forfeited their confidence, I should respectfully beg to relieve the Senate of further responsibility in the matter, and ask them to remove my name at once from the Faculty. Dr. Partridge then withdrew his motion, and the amendment was carried as a substantive resolution.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	As.	P.
Native General Library, Bombay	13	4	0
Ram Rao Manajee Esq., Mahomed Khans Tanda	13	4	0
Shamachurn Chuckerbuttee, Secretary Daragunj Reading Club	15	0	0
British Indian Association, Oude	13	4	0
Moulvi Murfudol Huq., Tangrah	13	4	0
Somra Public Library	5	0	0
Vice Chairman, Road Cess Committee, Rungpore	8	0	0
Baboo Umakant Das, Chittagong	13	4	0
" Annodapersaud Mozoomdar, Betal	6	10	0
" Harranchunder Chatterjee, Nowgong	5	0	0
" Anundchunder Sen, Burrisaul	13	4	0
" Janglilall, Arrah	5	0	0
" Ramchunder Mookerjee, Ferozepore	13	4	0
" Preonath Mittra, Rangoon	10	0	0
" Banymadhub Banerjee, Hope Town, Julpigoree	6	10	0
" Nrisinghadas Mookerji, Dhubri	6	4	0
" Bejoysingh Newgi, Sankrail	10	0	0
" Jodoogopal Banerjee, Neemuch	13	4	0
" Lala Pearylal, Lahore	26	8	0
" Sattishchunder Ghose, Bally	10	0	0
" Umanath Mozoomdar, Bogra	16	8	0
" Dimbadur Das, Dibrooghur	10	0	0
" Bhoobonechunder Mookerjee, Dinagepore	13	4	0
" Muttylal Ghose, Hoogly	5	0	0
" Munulal Chatterjee, Berhampore	10	0	0
" Gokoolchunder Mozoomdar, Chitholiah	12	0	0
" Nobinchunder Sen, Pooree	10	0	0
" Probodhchunder Dutt, Nattore	13	4	0
" Hurrymohun Sunnyal, Silligore	10	0	0
" Bepinbehary Bose, Moonsheegunge	10	0	0
" Bogolaprosunno Mozoomdar, Noakhally	13	4	0
" Deorgadas Dass, Chittagong	16	0	0
" Nilrutton Roy Chowdry, Mookhsedpoor	10	0	0
" Gopalchunder Ganguly, Allahabad	13	4	0
" Gopalkrishna Dey, Sylhet	10	0	0
" Ombicacharn Sircar, Corondi	10	0	0
" Shoshidhar Biroosh, Shillong	13	4	0
" Bhibiram Barrooah, Shillong	12	6	0

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*July* 10, 1878.

GENERAL.—Mr. R. L. Mangles, v. c., Commissioner, Presidency Division, is allowed leave for three months, with effect from the 17th July next, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

The orders of the 30th ultimo, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5th instant, transferring Mr. C. N. Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Chooadanga Division of the Nuddea district, to the Sudder Station of that district, are cancelled.

The orders of the 25th ultimo, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5 instant, transferring Moulvi Abdool Kurreem Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furreedpore, on leave, temporarily to the Sudder Station of the Backergunge district, are cancelled.

Mr. F. B. Peacock, Commissioner of Dacca, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Presidency Division during the absence, on leave of Mr. R. L. Mangles, v. c., or until further orders.

Mr. D. R. Lyall, Magistrate and Collector, Dacca is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Dacca Division during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. F. B. Peacock, or until further orders.

In supersession of the orders of the 27th ultimo, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5th instant, Mr. R. H. Greaves Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Khoordah, Pooree, on leave, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Gya district.

Mr. R. D. Bime, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Hooghly, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the First Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the date on which he relieved Mr. F. H. Pellew.

Baboo Kedar Nath Banerjee is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade, *vice* Baboo Deno Nath Dey, appointed a Circle Officer under the Bengle License Act. Baboo Kedar Nath Banerjee is posted to Howrah.

Baboo Tarun Chunder Sarkar, who was, under orders of the 30th ultimo, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5th instant, re-appointed to act, until further orders, as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the Sudder Station of the Nuddea district, with effect from the date on which he joined his appointment there. This cancels the notification placing him in charge of the Chooadanga Division of that district.

Baboo Poteram Banerjee, First Grade Carnoongoe, Rampore Haut, is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade at the Berhampore, in the district of Moorshedabad, during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Juggut Chunder Roy, or until further orders.

The following officers are appointed to act, until further orders, in the First Grade of Magistrates and Collectors:—

Mr. C. F. Worsly, *vice* Mr. C. C. Stevens.
" J. J. Livesay, *vice* Mr. D. R. Lyall.

Mr. D. B. Allen, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Dacca, on leave, is posted to the district of the 24-Pergunnahs.

Mr. H. L. Dampier, C. S., reported his departure from India on furlough on the 12th June 1878.

Mr. C. B. Allen, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, is allowed furlough for six months under Section 12, Chapter IV of the Civil Leave Code, together with subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding one day with effect from the 8th instant.

Mr. A. W. Mackie, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furneah on leave, is transferred to the district of Backergunge.

Mr. A. T. Maclean acted in the First Grade of Judges from the date on which he joined his appointment at the 24-Pergunnahs to the forenoon of the 6th April last, the date on which he took charge of the Office of the Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs.

POLICE—Mr. C. E. Gouldsbury, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Rajshahye, is re-appointed to act, until further orders, in the First Grade of Assistant Superintendents of Police with effect from the 26th March 1878.

Mr. Henry Edward Clarence Pagat is appointed to act, until further orders, as an Assistant Superintendent of Police, and is posted to Patna.

The orders of the 19th ultimo, granting Baboo Nob Kristo Ghose, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, Hooghly, leave for one month, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, are cancelled.

In modification of the orders of the 2nd April last, Mr. W. E. Cantopher, Head Master of the Hooghly Collegiate School is appointed temporarily to be Assistant Professor of the Hooghly College, with effect from the 20th March 1878, *vice* Mr. J. K. Rogers, retired.

In modification of the orders of the 6th ultimo, Baboo Dwarka Nath Chuckarbutty is appointed temporarily to be Head Master of the Hooghly Collegiate School during the absence, on duty, of Mr. W. E. Cantopher, or until further orders.

JUDICIAL.—Baboo Brojo Mohun Dutt, Officiating Judge of the Courts of Small Causes at Kishnaghur, Meherpore, and Ranaghat, is allowed leave for three months under Rule 1, Section 31, of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Baboo Baney Madhub Mitter, B.L., Moonsif of Kishnaghur, in Nuddea, is appointed to act as Judge of the Courts of Small Causes at Kishnaghur, Meherpore, and Ranaghat, during the absence on leave, of Baboo Brojo Mohun Dutt, or until further orders.

Baboo Bhugwan Chunder Chatterjee, Second Moonsif of Jessore, is appointed to act as Moonsif of Kishnaghur, in Nudden, during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Baney Madhub Mitter, or until further orders.

Baboo Hurrish Chunder Sen is appointed to act temporarily as a Moonsif of Jessore.

Baboo Gopal Chunder Bannerjee is appointed to act as Moonsif of Mudhoobunnee, in the district of Durbhunga, during the suspension, for six months, of Shah Lutufut Hosscin or until further orders.

Baboo Gobind Deb Mookerjee, B.L., is appointed to act as a Moonsif of Mohesrekha, in the district of Hooghly, during the absence, on leave, of Baboo Ram Gopal Chakee or until further orders.

Mr. P. J. Neuville, Executive Engineer (temporary rank), Second Grade, rejoined the Circular and Eastern Canals Division on the 25th June 1878, before noon, on return from the privilege leave granted* to him.

Mr. T. Beatty appointed to officiate as Executive Engineer, Nudden Rivers Division, is also appointed Supervisor of the Nudden Rivers, under section 13 of Act V of 1864, Bengal Legislative Council.

Mr. G. A. D. Anley, Executive Engineer (temporary rank), First Grade, Assistant to the Chief Engineer and Assistant Secretary in this Department, rejoined this office on the 5th July 1878, before noon, on return from privilege leave granted to him, and the unexpired portion of his leave is cancelled.

Advertisements.

WANTED.

An English 4th master for the middle School at Madhubani—knowledge of Hindustani is indespensible. Applications to be made to the undersigned before 1st of August, salary Rs. 20.

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No one need apply who has not passed as a Sub-Overseer in a Government Civil Engineering College.

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মূল্য ১৲ মাসুল ৵০

২। মৃণ্ময়ী, অর্থাৎ কপালকুণ্ডলার উপ সংহার, ২ য় সংস্করণ (শ্রীদামোদর মুখোপাধ্যায় প্রণীত) মূল্য ১৷০ মাসুল ৵০

The book is a very good one, Written in a temperate tone, it is entirely free from the vulgarisms which disfigure many of our Bengali novels. The style is chaste and elegant, and the book interspersed with disquisitions on various subjects,—many of them very thoughtful and original. The characters are almost all such as we should expect to find them in real life; and throughout, the book seems to be a faithful picture of Bengali society three centuries ago, unmixed as it was then with the conventionalisms that have crept into it now-a-days. The first meeting of Umapati with Muktakeshi, his love at first sight, and his courtship, are truly interesting, but their meeting after Umapati's miraculous rescue from the hands of the robbers, is still more affecting.

The book gave us much pleasure and we have no hesitation in recommending it to our readers, and in advising the author to continue his exertions and give us some more readable additions to elegant Bengali literature.—The *Calcutta Review*, January 1876.

ঐ দুই পুস্তক সংস্কৃত যন্ত্রের পুস্তকালয় ক্যানিং লাইব্রেরি প্রভৃতি কলিকাতার সমস্ত পুস্তকালয়ে পাওয়া যায়।

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CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.
NOTICE.

The Senate of the University of Calcutta will proceed in the month of August next to the election of a Tagore Law Professor for such term as the Senate may approve.

The Salary of the Professorship is Rs. 10,000 per annum, and one of the conditions of the appointment is that the Professor shall deliver in each year a course of lectures on some branch of Law.

Candidates for the Professorship are requested to forward their applications to the Registrar before the 27th July, and at the some time to state on what subject or subjects they are prepared to lecture.

Senate House } CHARLES H. TAWNEY,
The 6th July 1878. } *Registrar.*

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The Assam portion is 16 miles long, extending from the Biskhowah Nulla in the 49th mile to Dhubri in the 65th mile. The total quantity of earthwork to be done is about 290 lakhs of cubic feet.

Tenders should specify the rate per 1000 cubic feet at which the earthwork will be undertaken and whether they are for the whole or only a part of the road. In the latter case tenders should specify the quantity of earthwork proposed to be undertaken and in what miles it is situated.

Work is to be commenced not later than 15th November 1878, and completed by the 15th March 1879. Earnest money to the amount of Rs. 500 must accompany each tender, and security will be required to be deposited on acceptance of any tender, to the extent of 10 per cent of the value of the work undertaken.

Tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer, Lower Assam Division, Dhubri, and will be received up to the 10th August 1878. The right of rejecting any or all of the tenders is reserved.—

For further particulars and forms of tender, apply to the undersigned.

Dhubri,
The 1st July 1878. } BHOLANATH DASS, C. E.
Executive Engineer Lower Assam Division.

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Report by the Directors
PRESENTED TO THE
Sixty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Company
Held at Edinburgh on Friday, 5th April 1878.

The Directors submit the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December last :—

Life Business.
During the year 1877 there have been issued 1026 Policies, assuring £1,003,580, the new Premiums on which amount to £32,049 : 10 : 5.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 10 Endowments, were 280 in number, arising under 341 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amount with Bonus additions, to the sum of £299,863 : 10 : 6.

As will be seen from the State of Affairs annexed, the Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,711,876:11:7, being £105,446 : 17 : 10 above what it was on 31st December 1876. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

After paying the Dividend, the Reserve Fund will amount to £794,576 : 19 : 11, and the Premium Reserve to £302,671, 8s. 5d., together amounting to £1,017,248 : 8 : 4. At 31st December 1876 these Funds amounted to £1,082,768 : 11 : 10, showing an increase this year of £14,479 : 16 : 6.

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